

THE TIMES
1785-1985

Tomorrow

Quick changes
How royalty has
reacted to the
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Silver linings
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in the world of
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Red tape
Roger Scruton spells
out why Britain
should leave Unesco

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Portfolio

The weekly prize in the Times Portfolio competition - £40,000 because there was no winner the previous week - was shared between Mr Roger Abbott, of Ringsfield, Suffolk; and Mrs Judy Stansell, of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. Saturday's daily prize of £4,000 was shared by Mr John McDonald, of Glasgow; Mrs Sandra Merkle, of Hove; Mr Alan Harrison, of Feltham; Mrs Margaret Smith, of Swinton, Manchester. Portfolio list, page 18; rules and how to play, information service, back page.

Third Briton
among
rail dead

A third Briton was identified as a victim of the French rail crash near Argenton-sur-Creuse which killed 42 people and seriously injured 30. The driver of the passenger express involved has been charged with involuntary manslaughter and wounding. Page 6

Shuttle success

Shuttle astronauts, using a combination of brain and brawn, completed repairs on a satellite in space and redeployed it over the Equator. Page 6

Equal pay test

The white-collar union Apex is bringing 150 equal pay cases to an industrial tribunal. If successful, they could lead to pay increases for many women in industry. Page 3

Stalker arrest

Los Angeles police said they had arrested a man they believed to be the "Night Stalker", the killer of at least 16 people in California. Page 5

Defence failure

Britain's £1 billion Nimrod airborne early warning system four years behind schedule, is not meeting performance targets and may have to be replaced by US technology. Page 2

Bellof killed

Stefan Bellof, of West Germany, died after his Porsche crashed in the 1,000km world endurance race at Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium. Report, page 22

Lording it

Freuchie, of Fife, became the first Scottish team to win the National Village cricket championship when they beat Romford, Surrey, at Lord's by losing fewer wickets with the scores tied. Page 21

SPECIAL REPORT

What sort of education will the next generation of engineers receive? The issue is likely to be aired at Britain's first Engineering Assembly opening tomorrow. Pages 13-16

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Electricians' threat to walk out fuels TUC ballot crisis

From Donald Macintyre, Labour Editor, Blackpool

The TUC was sliding towards its most serious internal crisis since the 1970s last night as electricians' delegates voted to walk out of the congress if the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) is suspended or expelled this week.

The Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union delegates will withdraw from the congress for the rest of the week if the AUEW, the TUC's second biggest affiliate, is suspended. Its executive would meet subsequently to consider whether to ballot its own 365,000 members on disaffiliation.

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the electricians' union said yesterday that if the TUC took the "outrageous" step of suspending the AUEW for its acceptance of state funds for a postal ballot. "We are out with them. They will not go out alone," Mr Hammond added: "If we are thrust out of the TUC against our wishes we will not withdraw."

Pressure on the AUEW will increase at this morning's 8.30 meeting of the general council when the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) will demand that the union responds to the TUC direction to comply with the boycott on state cash before the congress goes ahead to debate the motions on the crucial issue of employment legislation.

If, as appeared certain last night, the AUEW executive refuses to bring forward its

meeting, planned for tomorrow evening, to decide a response to the TUC directive, Mr Ron Todd the TGWU general secretary, will call for the conference business to be reorganised so the debate on legislation can go ahead later in the week.

The AUEW's delegation, meeting at the union's Blackpool district office yesterday, underpinned its opposition to the TUC line on postal ballots by voting to oppose a composite resolution on the law which specifically "confirms the policy of non-cooperation agreed at the special conference at Wembley in 1982".

Although two members of the engineers' executive, Mr Jimmy Airlie and Mr George Arnold, defied the recommendation and voted against it, opinion within the union's leadership appeared, if anything, to be hardening against making further concessions to the TUC.

Although Mr Airlie and Mr Arnold can probably count on the support tomorrow of Mr Joey Russell and Mr Peter Burns, the foundry workers' representative, there is little sign that they will be able to secure a majority.

Most members, including Mr Terry Duffy, the president, who is ill at his home in south London, favour waiting for the planned ballot of the union's one million members next month.

Mr Bill Jordan, the leading right-wing candidate to succeed Mr Duffy, sought to stiffen the line still further yesterday when

he said that the meeting tomorrow could not properly change its decision "because policy has been made by the union's members."

He added: "I am annoyed at all this talk that the AEUW are in the wrong. The TUC are in the wrong. We are listening to the voice of the factory floor and not the dangerous noise coming from the ivory tower of the TUC."

Mr Todd said yesterday, after his own unions delegation meeting that it would be impossible for him to propose the key note motion on the law without knowing whether the second biggest union was prepared to abide by TUC policy.

Fresh problems emerged for the AUEW last night after the revelation that a new craft union has been formed by its disaffected members in the Midlands.

Mr Roy Fraser, union body plant convenor at Austin Rover's Cowley works and the leader of the crippling toolmakers' strike in 1977, is one of those behind the move.

The Engineering Craft Association threatens to become a rival breakaway organization for highly skilled workers. The move partly stems from the disaffection over the status and pay differentials of highly skilled men that lay behind the unofficial toolmakers' strike which brought BL to the brink of collapse in the late 1970s.

Scargill stands firm, page 2

Coal train guards refuse to take part in driver-only trial

British Rail last night appeared to be heading for more trouble as guards at Shirebrook, in Derbyshire, gave notice of "no co-operation" over the one-man freight train operation.

The guards at Shirebrook are now in the front line of the campaign to introduce driver-only freight operations.

The board has given notice that from today 140 trains operating every week on the "merry-go-round" system feeding coal from pits to power stations between Shirebrook and Worsnop, in Nottinghamshire will be manned by drivers only.

Last night, Mr Dennis Widdowson, secretary of the Shirebrook branch of the National Union of Railwaymen warned that the board had jumped the gun in introducing this plan. He said his branch had agreed yesterday not to co-operate with what British Rail has described as "a trial scheme".

The "merry-go-round" service, which ferries 450,000 tonnes of coal a year to power stations and earns £20 million a year for British Rail, could provoke a nationwide dispute if the board suspends guards who refuse to co-operate with one-man operations, and who refuse to be re-deployed elsewhere.

If the men are told not to report for work as a result of the branch's decision, they will be paid £11 a day by the union, Mr Widdowson said.

To date, British Rail has been playing it cool over the single-manning issue and has merely been sending protesting guards home.

But the NUR now fears that some guards could be sacked for "non-cooperation". This apprehension is shared by the train drivers' union, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

Mr Ray Buckton, ASLEF general secretary, warned that his union headquarters had been receiving reports from

various regions of concern that British Rail management may soon start sacking drivers who refuse to take out trains without guards.

Mr Buckton said: "About a dozen drivers in Wales have been told that they will be sacked if they continue to refuse to take out driver-only trains."

"Other regions report similar atmospheres of intimidation, which is of course of great concern to the union as a whole."

"But if any driver is sacked then the ASLEF executive will meet immediately to consider its reaction."

ASLEF has reported the biggest vote by any union in favour of maintaining its political levy to the Labour Party. The train drivers voted by 13-1 to maintain the contributions, in a vote in which 85 per cent of members participated.



Mr Coveyduck and his wife, Jean, celebrating his return home. Photograph: Dod Miller.

Freed Briton was 'stranger' to wife

Mr Graham Coveyduck, the Hampshire businessman who was held for nearly a year without trial in a Nigerian jail, flew home to Britain yesterday. He revealed that his arrest by the Nigerian security police came the day after his arrival to carry out a fraud investigation for the security police.

Mr Coveyduck, looked fit despite losing six stones in weight, which his wife, Jean, said had made her unable to recognize him at first. "But I am getting used to the new image," she added.

Mr Coveyduck said at Gatwick airport that he had been detained in a cell measuring 10ft by 8ft with up to seven other prisoners and lived mostly on porridge, rice and fish. He was never ill treated.

Mr Coveyduck described his position with his company, Inter-Credit, as "smoothing out financial problems". He was one of a number of detainees released after last week's bloodless coup.

He said the purpose of his visit to Nigeria had been to give a verbal report on the findings of his investigation.

"I think the security police expected different names to come out from those that did,"

he said. His arrest and detention under military decree had probably been to cover up any embarrassment.

"In a Nigerian sense, there is a lot of logic in what happened. The people who were running the police at the time are now mostly in detention themselves."

Mr Coveyduck was arrested in September last year on charges of alleged extortion which were dropped on March. After his arrest he was held under house arrest in a flat in a Lagos suburb, then moved to a medium security prison and later to the high security unit at the Kiri-Kiri prison.

He said he was allowed out of his cell to exercise with other prisoners, during the day. Washing and drinking water was taken from a well and he suffered from bouts of dysentery, malaria and frequent colds because of the damp conditions.

At one stage he went on a hunger strike for 14 days in protest at the conditions and was placed in a punishment cell shared sometimes with Nigerians facing execution. "Afterwards, the amount of food we were given was doubled and we were given medicine and beds to sleep on," he said.

Pretoria freezes foreign debt repayments for four months

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South Africa will freeze the repayment of all foreign debts for the next four months, President Botha announced last night. A two-tier currency system, using a "financial rand" to control the outflow of foreign exchange will be reintroduced.

President Botha announced the drastic measures in Pretoria at the end of a critical weekend for South Africa and as three EEC foreign ministers finished a three-day visit on an uncompromising note. At the same time 60,000 black miners started an indefinite strike in seven gold and coal mines.

Mr Jacques Poo, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg and leader of the EEC mission, said before boarding a flight to Europe that they had told the South African Government "in very clear terms that the apartheid system which we condemn must be dismantled quickly".

The release of political prisoners, particularly Mr Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader was indispensable as a prerequisite to "a national dialogue with the country's black leaders without preconditions".

Mr Botha announced the financial curbs as white confidence in the Government's ability to end the crisis was shaken by the news of the brutal murders by a black mob of two whites in the Eastern Cape.

The crowd had left a mass funeral, attended by 40,000 people, of 18 riot victims in Duncan village, near East

London, at which speakers proclaimed: "Now we are carrying the struggle to the Boers."

The crowds shouted back: "Long live the necklace" - the rubber tyre thrown over the necks of suspected "collaborators" and informers before they are burnt to death - and "Long live the grenade".

Police headquarters in Pretoria said one of the two whites was stabbed and burnt to death and the other died from knife wounds. Two other men in the car were in a critical condition in hospital last night with stab wounds. None has so far been identified.

The murders bring to four the number of whites killed by blacks in a year of unrest which has claimed nearly 700 black lives.

Emotions ran high at the mass funeral when mourners faced acid sneezing powder, similar to the chemical used by the police for crowd control, sprinkled around the waiting graves. Among those buried was a seven-month-old boy who choked to death when a tear gas grenade was thrown into his home.

The mass funeral and the murders came as South Africa experienced its most difficult weekend since the outbreak of unrest a year ago in Sharpeville township south of Johannesburg.

As the three EEC foreign ministers completed the fact-finding visit and talks with President Botha and members of his Cabinet, the country was

Continued on back page, col 7

Gorbachov in bitter attack on America

From Michael Binyon, Washington

In a withering attack on what he called confusion and uncertainty in Washington, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov accused the Americans of preparing for the November summit as though it were a bout between "political super-gladiators".

The Soviet leader said he was "disappointed and concerned" at Washington's approach. The scenario of pressure was part of an attempt to drive his country into a corner and ascribe to it every moral sin "in a feverish search for forces of evil".

Citing the recent call by Mr Robert McFarlane, the National Security Adviser, for Moscow to change his thinking and approach, Mr Gorbachov said: "It appears that even the slightest headway depends exclusively on concessions by the Soviet Union, concessions on all questions - on armaments, on regional problems

and even on our own domestic affairs.

"If all this is meant seriously, then manifestly Washington is preparing not for the event we have agreed upon."

But if the "hellish outcries" were not meant seriously, then they were all the more inappropriate. "Why flex muscles needlessly? Why stage noisy shows and transfer the methods of domestic political struggles to the relations between two nuclear powers?"

Mr Gorbachov gave this bleak assessment of relations with Washington in a lengthy and exclusive interview published today in Time - his first interview with an American publication since his accession to power.

He said that despite the arms talks in Geneva and the coming summit, relations were continuing on regional problems

Continued on back page, col 8

Parkinson kept out in Thatcher shuffle

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister has decided reluctantly against asking Mr Cecil Parkinson to rejoin the Cabinet in the extensive reconstruction which is to be announced today.

After further consultation yesterday with senior Conservative Party figures, including Lord Whitelaw, her deputy, and Mr John Wakeham, the Government Chief Whip, Mrs Margaret Thatcher set aside her own strong inclination to restore to office the colleague who was forced to resign as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry nearly two years ago.

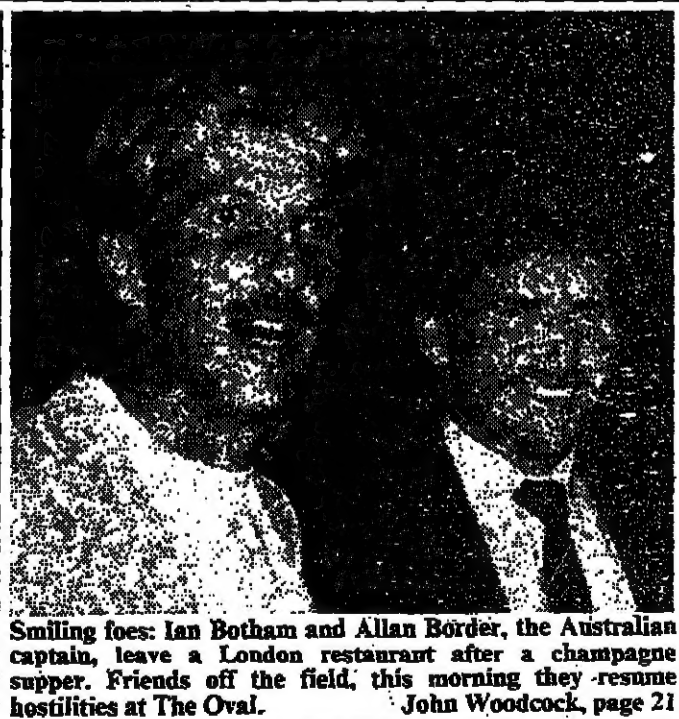
As many as half a dozen changes to the Government at Cabinet level are expected to be made known by tonight, and numerous changes in the middle and junior ranks of

ministers are likely to have been completed by tomorrow. The Prime Minister returned last night to 10 Downing Street from Chequers. She had been at work there on new appointments, some of which she is known to have been considering for months.

There was evidence yesterday that several candidates for promotion had already been approached and that ministers who are retiring or being retired already knew their fates.

But the Prime Minister's preference is to conduct these transactions by telephone, except where a resignation is being sought in particularly painful circumstances, so there will be few clues to be found among ministers.

Continued on back page, col 3



Smiling foes: Ian Botham and Allan Border, the Australian captain, leave a London restaurant after a champagne supper. Friends off the field, this morning they resume hostilities at The Oval. John Woodcock, page 21

£2 billion battle on spending

The battle to keep next year's public spending within the Government's £139 billion target, will revolve round a gap of £2 billion between the Treasury and spending ministers (Our Economics Correspondent writes).

However, while the gap between the Treasury and the ministries is not large, it will be difficult to reduce.

As the public spending round gets under way, the Treasury is facing excess bids totalling £4 billion from the departments. About £1 billion of this is due to higher inflation and a further £1 billion to nationalized industries. A third £1 billion arises from extra local authority spending and the continued rise in unemployment.

Comment, page 17

Warders' anger over riot at 'Ireland's Alcatraz'

By Tim Jones

Forty prisoners last night surrendered themselves to police from the burnt wreck of Spike Island prison in Cork harbour after a riot which prison officers say was "utterly predictable".

In a political storm over the incident, the Prison Officers' Association has called for the resignation of Mr Michael Noonan, the Irish Minister for Justice.

More than 70 of the 114 inmates in the prison which was opened earlier this year to deal with the republic's growing crime wave, began to riot in the early hours of yesterday morning.

For more than four hours, they engaged in an orgy of destruction, smashing everything they could get their hands on, and when police reinforcements arrived from the main-

land two miles away, the prisoners hurled missiles to try to prevent them from landing.

At one stage, terrified members of the seven families living on the island who had sought refuge in a concrete hut on the jetty, had to walk through a gauntlet of prisoners who forced them out before destroying the building. The families, who were not harmed, were ordered into a house on the island where they barricaded themselves in.

By morning, the main prisoners' accommodation block and the administration complex were in flames. Smoke from the burning wreckage could be seen clearly from the mainland which is separated from "Ireland's Alcatraz" by treacherous currents.

Standing on the roof of a partly demolished block, the prisoners shouted they would hold out until they received guarantees that they could be

returned to their prisons of origin, and that there would be no loss of remission for their action.

At the height of the riot, the prisoners commandeered a mechanical digger and tried to smash their way into a security zone where about two dozen warders had barricaded themselves in.

Four policemen stationed on the island for the protection of the civilian families fled in a boat when it became clear they were in grave physical danger. A member of one of the families said they attached no blame to the officers as the prisoners had made it clear that civilians would not be harmed. Heavily armed Irish Army units were sent to the island, but they were not used.

Mr Tom Hoare, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association said that serious questions arose because his members had been

under siege for three hours until reinforcements arrived. He said that four of the six officers on duty had less than three weeks' service, and only half a dozen other off-duty warders were on the island to give assistance.

Mr Hoare disclosed that as recently as last week, his association had met Department of Justice officials to express concern over overcrowding and undermanning in Irish jails.

With the type of regime in operation, Spike Island was always lending itself to this type of disturbance. There were no secure facilities, and the dormitory style of accommodation for offenders was a recipe for disaster.

"Spike Island was a political decision taken as a panic measure. We had an agreement reached on the basis of 50 prisoners but that was broken all over the place."

Mr Patrick McAvoy, general secretary of the POA, said: "I can only say we told you so. The riot was utterly predictable. Spike Island has neither the facilities, resources, manpower or money to accommodate the kind of thugs housed there."

Last night, Mr Paddy Power, an assistant chief police commissioner in charge of the operation, said that within half an hour of the riot starting, 10 police officers had arrived.

Mr Noonan said last night that the prison would be rebuilt and he denied there had been a failure of security. "These prisoners were selected on the basis that they did not show a tendency of being violent towards people."

In May, security at the prison was under review, after an escape by six inmates who used two unguarded Office of Public Works rafts to sail to the mainland.

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TUC defied by miners' leaders over return of cash lost in strike

By Donald McIntyre, Labour Editor

Miners' leaders are to defy the probable opposition of the TUC General Council and press ahead with their controversial motion seeking reimbursement of money lost through sequestration and receivership during the year-long coal strike.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, made it clear yesterday that the union would not withdraw a composite motion agreed yesterday with the National Communications Union which some senior union leaders see as threatening serious political embarrassment for the TUC and the Labour leadership if it is passed tomorrow.

The TUC's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, made it clear last night that it would support the motion in spite of its reservations about the wording, but it was probable that the TUC General Council will recommend opposition when it considers it today or tomorrow.

The composite motion "recognizing the injustice inflicted on the NUM and its members, calls on the TUC to immediately campaign for and the next Labour government to legislate to provide: a review of all cases of jailed miners; reinstatement of dismissed

miners; reimbursement of the NUM and all other unions with "all monies confiscated as a result of fines, sequestration and receivership", and the ending of all pit closures other than by exhaustion.

Mr Scargill said that he was surprised at reports that the general council and the general secretary of the TUC were opposed to the motion, as it was strongly in favour of the reinstatement of workers who faced dismissal at GCHQ.

Moreover, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers had called for reimbursement of

cash confiscated from it as a result of the Industrial Relations Act 1971.

Mr Scargill said: "I would hope this resolution will get the massive support of the trade union movement as a whole. I would hope that no one would vote against it. These are fundamental principles of the Labour and trade union movement. There is no possibility of the NUM withdrawing. We owe it to our people who have been dismissed."

Mr Scargill said the need to review the cases of jailed miners had been underlined by the collapse of the police case against miners charged with riot at the Orgreave coke works. He said there was "clear evidence" that the police had fabricated evidence to secure convictions.

Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the TGWU, said that the union had reservations over the direct demand for reimbursement and would have preferred a proposal for a policy on this issue to be formulated.

But he added: "This is a matter of wording and it does not conflict with the policies of the TGWU." He said the union's leaders would be recommending support though a formal decision was deferred yesterday pending agreement on the composite.



Mr Scargill refuses to back down over cash.

Early cash hint to teachers

Sir Keith Joseph hinted yesterday, hours before the start of a third school term affected by industrial actions that extra money might be available for teachers in England and Wales at the end of this year.

The Secretary of State for Education said on the BBC Radio 4 programme, *The World This Week*, that the employers had in mind an improved package for the teachers, who are insisting that any settlement must include more cash for 1985.

Sir Keith said that through the new package increased money offered by the Government could be in the hands of the teachers by next April.

He was then asked if it could mean more money for the teachers this year. Sir Keith said that the employers had refused to negotiate through the media and so would he.

But he added: "The fact that if a bargain were made and the Government, therefore, agreed to release extra money for next year and the subsequent three years, the fact that the employers could confidently expect extra money would no doubt enter into the employers' calculations, but they operate under very tight constraints."

He said that the Government placed "a very high priority indeed" on settling the dispute and that was why it had offered an extra £1.25 billion over the next four years.

Sir Keith believed the prospects for a settlement were better than they had been. Mr Nigel de Gruchy, the deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers, appearing on the same programme, said: "Perhaps one can detect a certain small flexibility coming from the Government."

"They might allow some of the money for 1986 to be put to the end of 1985. That might just about start to pave the way for a settlement."

But he said that, in the longer term, the £1.25 billion offered by the Government represented only 2% cent extra for teachers and "it really is not enough to begin to tempt us".

New union leader

Edmonds plans rules shake-up at the top

From Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter, Blackpool

Britain's third largest union is heading for a radical transformation under the guidance of Mr John Edmonds, whose election to the leadership was announced at the weekend.

Mr Edmonds, general secretary-elect of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, will preside over a number of constitutional changes, set in train by the union's conference, which will bring it into line with a crucial part of last year's Trade Union Act.

The new leader, an Oxford graduate, a heavyweight negotiator, and political "centrist", is keen to push through measures which will mean a five-year ballot for all those with a vote on the union's executive, including himself. In the present structure, he would have been elected for life.

The review is also likely to bring to an end the union's voting system where those who attended branch meetings during the election for general secretary wielded the whole voting power of the membership.

Mr Edmonds' chances of pushing through the measures will be greatly enhanced by his overwhelming victory in the poll. He won 41,875 votes compared with 148,594 for the runner-up, Mr Tom Burlison, northern regional secretary. The union's national chemical industry officer, Mr David Warburton, who started as one of the favourites, came third with 121,839 votes.

Mr Edmonds will head what amounts to a completely new team with more than half the senior officials being replaced during the next two years. He has also achieved the general secretaryship at a time when a whole new generation of union leaders are coming to prominence.

The new leader, aged 41, has been a national officer of the union for 13 years. He negotiates for 300,000 of its members in the public services

and, as head of the union's negotiating group for the industry, is responsible for a million workers. He takes over on January 1 and will until then run in tandem with Mr David Bassett, the president general secretary.

An ardent cricket supporter and amateur carpenter, Mr Edmonds was born in Camberwell, south London, the son of a flour blender.

Mr Edmonds sees the service sector as his organization's most fertile ground for recruitment, by implication the areas now covered by the Confederation of Health Service Employees in the public sector, and the Union of Shop, Distribution and Allied Workers in private industry.

The general secretaryship will also give Mr Edmonds, a seat on the general council of the TUC. There Mr Bassett has occupied the so-called "pivotal" role between the warring factions of right and left.

Senior leaders of the union are known to have become increasingly impatient with the amount of time and effort devoted to the TUC by Mr Bassett in his function as a "shuttle diplomat".

In his election address, Mr Edmonds comments: "Whatever the wider responsibilities, the general secretary is first and foremost a leader of the GMB. He must speak for GMB members and personally lead the GMB campaigns against unemployment, privatization, and low pay. The GMB must come first."

He considers that the labour movement has "lost the debate" with the Government over privatization and employment law, and believes the unions should attempt to speak for "working people" in general and not just their members.

Addressing a press conference in Blackpool yesterday to celebrate his election, he said: "I intend to put the union at the forefront of the campaign to defend civilized society."



Captain Havoc living up to his name in his attempt on the world car leaping record. The stuntman, whose real name is Tony Lawrence, hurt his leg when he crashed his Jaguar XJ12 just short of the 232ft record at Hemel Hempstead yesterday. (Photograph: Chris Harris.)

Joint Unionist warning for Thatcher

By Julian Haviland
Political Editor

Leaders of the two main Ulster Unionist parties, who flew to London at their own request last week for talks with the Prime Minister, are understood to have renewed their warning to the Government that any new arrangements with Dublin which appear to infringe British sovereignty in Northern Ireland will be resisted by the majority.

None of the participants at last week's talks has given any public indication of their content. All that was stated yesterday was that a half-hour meeting took place at 10 Downing Street last Friday, when Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Official Unionists, and the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists,

handed a document to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The document, the contents of which remain secret, was drawn up by a committee of half a dozen members of the two rival parties. The committee was formed a few weeks ago when the parties decided to make common cause in protesting at the re-routing of traditional Protestant marches away from Roman Catholic areas by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

One well-placed unionist source said yesterday that the two parties had resolved to make their own joint proposals for the future of the province now, however modest, the British Government might think them, rather than wait for the terms of a "patched-up

agreement" between London and Dublin to be published in the next few weeks.

"We do not want to seem purely negative," the source said. "It was thought tactically sensible, if one has something to offer, however small, to offer it now."

But the two leaders asked for a meeting to present their document because it would give them the opportunity again to voice Unionist fears.

The Unionists have been disturbed by reports that the outline agreement between Britain and the Republic will allow Irish ministers a consultative role in policy formation while leaving executive power with British ministers. They are not persuaded that there can be a clear distinction between consultation and decision.

Mr John Hume, leader of

the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said yesterday he was quite sure that at their meeting with Mrs Thatcher, the two party leaders would have been threatening her with talk of a Protestant backlash or "loyalist" uprising (Tim Jones writes from Belfast).

"Let us not forget that every time this century any British government has attempted or even indicated it is likely to make any sort of move the response from unionism has been to threaten."

He said the success of such threats had led other people to believe that when confronted with them, the British backed off. "It led people to believe that only violence will solve the problem. Now these two forces, those who threaten violence, and those who use it, are still at the heart of the problem."

US system may replace Nimrod

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

Britain may be driven to seek an American substitute for the £1 billion Nimrod airborne early warning aircraft programme which is failing to achieve its performance targets.

The aircraft should have been in service with the Royal Air Force two years ago, but at best they are not expected to be operational before 1987. There is acute depression within the RAF about the slow progress.

The programme is now being reviewed to establish a basis on which it can be completed. Last month the task was to define an acceptable standard of performance. The likely costs of achieving this are to be assessed with a view to the Ministry of Defence negotiating next month a fixed-price contract with GEC Avionics for completing the programme.

Much will depend on whether GEC will commit itself to achieving the performance standards at a fixed price acceptable to the ministry.

There are indications that the ministry may have made unofficial soundings about the availability of American alternatives if the Nimrod programme has to be abandoned.

On Friday, Mr John Lehman, US Navy Secretary, told British journalists that he was concerned about the delay in introducing Nimrod, because Nato counted on it as part of the web of command and control in the North Atlantic.

He said he was not aware of any discussions between the Pentagon and Britain about the possibility of obtaining an American substitute, but some options did exist.

It would still be possible to obtain a new aircraft from the Nato configuration, but it would also be possible to look at co-production of an airborne early warning aircraft used by the US Navy.

This is the E-2C Hawkeye used on America's big aircraft carriers. In its present form it would not be suitable for Britain's needs, but Mr Lehman said a land-based variant with longer range than the carrier-based aircraft was being considered.

Directors unhappier over the economy

By Our Political Editor

Evidence of growing unhappiness among some of the Prime Minister's most loyal supporters with the Government's, and particularly the Treasury's, performance is published by the Institute of Directors today.

In a bi-monthly survey of members' opinions, the institute found that nearly half of those taking part (46 per cent) were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the Government. Against that, 38 per cent declared themselves satisfied or very satisfied, leaving 17 per cent uncommitted.

A continuing decline in members' optimism about the prospects for the economy, compared with their mood at the time of the Budget, is matched by disapproval of the Treasury's performance, with which 55 per cent are dissatisfied and only 25 per cent satisfied.

They do not think much of the Department of Employment either, the figures showing 41 per cent against (27 per cent satisfied).

Of the three government departments on which they were asked to pass judgement, only the Department of Trade and Industry, which is soon likely to have a new political head in succession to Mr Norman Tebbit, earns approval, by a narrow margin; 39 per cent of the directors are satisfied with it, 32 per cent dissatisfied.

The Government, if it is concerned about the institute's views, can take comfort from

some apparent inconsistencies. To the loaded question, "do you believe the Government has done enough, or not yet, to cut public spending?", a clear majority (57 per cent to 36 per cent) says it has not.

Such a verdict was to be expected from a body whose membership has always appeared to be on the political right.

On the other hand the directors appear willing to see more public spending to help the unemployed.

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor, yesterday rallied the troops as the economy's management is dim, by saying in the *Sunday Express* that "the unemployment prospect for the next two years should be rather brighter than the past two years have been".

Finance and industry, page 17

Walker urges party to attract young

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy and an aspirant for promotion in the imminent government changes, yesterday advised the Conservative Party that to win a third term of government it must regain the support of young people by campaigning for peace and prosperity.

Speaking at the Young Conservatives' summer school in Manchester, he said yesterday survey showed that the biggest swing against the Conservatives was among those aged 25.

Doubts on Titanic finding

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Hopes that the wreck of the Titanic has been found were let down with a gentle bump yesterday.

Wary staff at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts spent most of the day dealing with inquiries from television stations and newspapers on both sides of the Atlantic after the "finding" was reported.

The institution's research ship, *Knoor*, was indeed in the area where the great liner went down in 1912, and its crew was scanning the ocean bed 12,000ft below.

"But we believe that if they had found the Titanic, they would have let us know," a spokesman at Woods Hole said.

It was not even the object of the expedition to find the wreck, he said, although an object of the liner's bulk was an ideal target for electronic search equipment being tested in the area for the US Navy.

The 46,329-ton Titanic has eluded countless search missions, including those of the Texas oil millionaire, Mr "Cadillac Jack" Grimm, a team of West Germans, and a group of French scientists.

The latest has only nine days left. The *Knoor* is scheduled to be back in Boston on September 11.

Jobs grant puts darts player into tournaments

An unemployed man has set himself up in business as a professional darts player with the aid of government grants.

Chris Johns, of Penryn, Aberdeenshire, Mid Glamorgan, has been given £1,000 under the youth business initiative scheme to buy a car to travel to darts contests and has been guaranteed £40 a week from the Government's enterprise allowance scheme for part-time and overnight accommodation.

"Without the cash from the Government I just wouldn't be able to play darts for a living. I'd still be idling my time away in the valleys searching for a job that doesn't even exist," he said.

Youths riot 'Reno' cinema

Two police officers were injured, and a police car was damaged after 50 youths forced their way into a late-night showing of the film *Rambo* and began a riot when police tried to eject them.

One of the group paid to get into the packed ABC cinema in Gloucester on Saturday night, and then opened the fire doors and the gang then poured into the cinema, and refused to leave. Gloucester police said 50 youths were being questioned in connection with the incident.

Sit-in at four Tyne shipyards

Hundreds of striking shipyard workers occupied four yards yesterday in a dispute over changes in working practices.

More than 500 men blocked themselves in the Swan Hunter and Wigham yards at Wallsend, Hebburn and refused to let management inside. They were not security guards, as was alleged, and were not in contact with the police.

Ex-judge sues

A Bruce Campbell, a former judge, has sued the Criminal Court judge who fined him two years for attempting to smuggle a handgun into a High Court courtroom against a former cabinet minister over a cabinet reshuffle. Papers, valued at £15,000.

Mock trial

Mr Marvin Mitchell, the Hollywood divorce lawyer who created a "palmistry" star in a mock trial at the High Court in Edinburgh, tomorrow as part of a seminar organised by the International Bar Association and the Law Society of England.

Protesters hurt

Four anti-blood sports demonstrators were taken to hospital on Saturday, after a brawl involving 60 protesters at an agricultural show at Chillingham Castle, in Kent, where hunting hounds were on display. Spectators became angry and fighting broke out.

Guard murdered

Police were yesterday investigating the murder of Christopher Halliday, aged 23, a private in the Grenadier Guards who died after being stabbed outside the Blitz public house in Bath Road, Hounslow, west London, on Saturday.

Swimmer named

A body washed up at Seaford Head, in Sussex, was identified yesterday as Mr Roger Edmondson, aged 32, of Croxson, south London, who disappeared six days ago while swimming in Newhaven harbour.

Norwich divorce

Lord Norwich, aged 55, the writer and broadcaster John Julius Norwich, is suing his wife Anne in the London Divorce Court for divorce after 33 years of marriage. They separated two years ago and had two children.

Legion scare

The workshop of Stafford Prison, at Swynerton, near Stoke-on-Trent, was evacuated at the weekend after the discovery of Legionnaires' bacteria.

Children drown

David Forrester, aged three, and his sister Christine, aged four, drowned yesterday in the river Derwent near their home in Great Clifton, near Worthing, Cumbria. The girl had tried to save her brother.

Drugs battle

Westminster City Council's social services committee will tonight consider setting up a task force to fight the rising use of drugs among teenagers.

Pistol attack

Nottingham police were yesterday hunting a man who shot a fellow bus passenger in the head at close range with an air pistol, late on Saturday night.

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Hope rises for ocean-bed research

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

British scientists are likely to remain part of an international deep-sea drilling research programme in spite of serious funding difficulties.

Britain's continued participation has been cast in doubt because of difficulties in raising the £2 million subscription towards the Joint Oceanographic Institutions Deep Earth Sampling project (Joides).

British funding is usually

provided annually by the Natural Environment Research Council. But the council has suffered most among government cuts in research funding and has been trying to make its own economies.

The deep-sea programme has as one of its aims the exploration of rare minerals such as cobalt and nickel, and could lead to the discovery of oil beneath the ocean beds.

The next phase of the project includes exploration next year

in the Weddell Sea of Antarctica, and British scientists believe it is important to participate.

Earlier this year a British proposal to continue involvement on a reduced status was rejected by other member nations of Joides, including the United States, Canada and Japan.

The £2 million subscription has still not been paid. However, Mr Hugh Fish, the council chairman, said yesterday: "We are very hopeful that the money

will be found and that we will be able to join in the programme later this year."

"Our funding is very tight, but I believe we will get more from the Government and important that we continue to keep up with technological advances."

The work in the Weddell Sea has great potential for Britain and I am quite sure we will be taking part in it."

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Union uses equality Act amendment to push for better wages in 150 cases

Equal pay legislation is facing one of its most severe tests with the submission this week of the first of 150 cases to go before an industrial tribunal in Birmingham.

The Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs (Apex) is the union at the forefront of the campaign to win women equal pay for work of equal value under last year's amendment to the Equal Pay Act, 1970. It hopes to test the potential of the changed Act for allowing substantial pay increases.

It has spent more than a year preparing cases against a number of Midlands companies, some of which face as many as 50 claims.

The amendment was reluctantly brought into force by the Government in January 1984 after a directive from the European Commission of Human Rights. It allows workers, mainly women, to claim increases in pay if they can prove to an industrial tribunal that their work is of

equal value to that of other employees, even if the work is of a different nature.

The first case involved Miss Julie Hayward, a canteen cook at Cammell Laird, who was awarded an increase from £99 to £130 a week.

Miss Hayward, who had the backing of the Equal Opportunities Commission and her union, the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union (GMBATU), won the right to pay parity with painters, joiners and heating engineers in the same shipyard.

She argued that her City and Guilds cookery qualification, gained after a four-year release course, was equivalent to the craft apprenticeships of her male colleagues. The tribunal upheld the report of an independent expert who compared the jobs over a five-month study and said that Miss Hayward's work was of equal value in terms of skills, physical demands and decision-making.

A notable difference from the Cammell Laird case is that the

claims compare the wages and conditions of female Apex members with male manual workers from different unions.

Mr Owen Granfield, Apex Midlands area organizer, said yesterday: "In some factories we have received substantial co-operation from the manual workers. In others it has been more difficult to obtain the information, and in others there has been an absolute wall of silence. The provision of information from management has been difficult."

Apex disputes a recent claim by PA Management Consultants that equal pay claims could put 10 per cent on industrial costs.

A number of cases have already been submitted by Apex in Northern Ireland, and the progress of those and the Midlands claims will be watched closely by Apex regional officials and other trade unionists.

Mr Granfield said that with the help of two graduate researchers he identified a range of clerical jobs where women earned less than male manual workers, and then embarked on persuading Apex members to make claims. "There is a traditional reluctance for people to stick their neck out on the block," he said. That was why they submitted several claims for each company.

● The struggle to improve the pay and status of women workers celebrated a long-fought victory last April when 270 sewing machinists at Ford's were awarded an extra £7 a week.

Since then there have been several successful claims, although the 150 submissions by Apex is thought to well outnumber those already made.

The companies involved include Rolls-Royce, Xpelsair, Dunlop, Coventry Climax and Alvis.

Shop workers launch twin fight for jobs and wages

Leaders of Britain's 600,000 shop workers last night launched a twin campaign to protect workers against cuts in jobs and wages.

The campaign, by the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, opposes the proposed repeal of the Shops Act, 1950, which would permit "open all hours" trading, and the planned abolition of Wages Councils controls for workers aged under 21.

Mr Garfield Davies, the union's general secretary, said: "Shop workers are being clobbered by both these moves."

"If the shops Act is repealed and unlimited shopping hours are allowed, then casual workers will be taken in all 20,000 jobs could be lost immediately and, in the future, losses could mount to ten times that figure. Is Sunday trading worth the loss of about 20,000 jobs?"

Mr Davies spoke of the dangers to younger shop workers in proposals to limit the power of Wages Councils. He said: "If this should happen, we believe there will be exploitation of many high street workers."

Millions of cigarettes in cyanide alert

Up to two million cigarettes have been withdrawn from sale in a cyanide scare, but a spokesman for the manufacturer involved believes the alert may turn out to be a hoax.

Mrs Yvonne Stephens, from Watlington, Oxfordshire, bought a pack of 50 John Player Special cigarettes at the duty-free shop in Gatwick airport last week.

When she began to open the pack at her hotel in Majorca on Wednesday she noticed the flap had been tampered with and a message in a handwritten scrawl said: "These cigarettes have been impregnated with cyanide. Animal Rights Liberation Front."

But at the weekend Mr Martin Cannon, spokesman for British American Tobacco (UK and Export), said: "I really do believe, and hope, this is some kind of hoax."

The cigarettes were manufactured in Liverpool. Mr Cannon said it was thought the pack left the factory intact. "It looks as though some comedian somewhere down the line bent down the flap and wrote this silly message on it."

"We have withdrawn all our European stocks at duty-free shops in the UK. It will run into hundreds of thousands, and possibly as many as two million cigarettes to be checked."

The suspect package is on its way to England.

Pope 'saddened' by air disaster

A message from the Pope was read at Mass for the Manchester air disaster victims at St Anthony's church in Wood House Park, Manchester, last night. The church is a mile from Ringway airport, where a British Airways Boeing 737 crashed, killing 55 passengers.

The Pope said that he was "deeply saddened" by the disaster and sent his best wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured.

In his sermon, the Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Right Rev Joseph Gray, praised the heroism and skill of those who had worked at the disaster scene and Wythenshawe and Withington hospitals.

Of the disaster, Bishop Gray declared: "Our whole being revolts against the unfairness, the futility, the apparent illogicality of it all, and we are tempted to ask the unanswerable question, why?"

Civic leaders, airport and airline officials and clergy of other denominations were present at the Mass.

● More than a thousand mourners packed into a chapel at Denbigh in Cheshire for the funeral of the joint funeral of an engaged couple who died in the Manchester disaster.

Mr Alwyn Edwards, a building manager of Denbigh, and Miss Meryl Edwards, a recently qualified nurse who lived with her parents at a farm at Rhewl, near Ruthin, were both 21. At the wish of their parents they were buried side by side in the town cemetery at Denbigh.

Hayley Mills in autumn radio drama debut

Hayley Mills, the actress, makes her radio theatre debut and Mr Edward Heath and Lord Carrington debate with American politicians on nuclear policy, in the autumn schedule for BBC Radio Three.

Jonathan Pryce stars opposite Hayley Mills in *Talbot's Folly*, a play by Lanford Wilson set in Missouri in 1944.

Miss Mills, aged 39, said: "It makes me prefer play for radio because it is a two-hander. There is something strange about him and her, each harbours a secret."

Phyllis Calvert, Irene Worth, Robert Stephens, Michael Gough and Helen Mirren are among leading actors in other

Toxic cargo threat on beaches

By John Young

An increasing risk to public safety from dangerous cargoes washed ashore on beaches is indicated in a report published today by the Keep Britain Tidy group.

A survey carried out between September 1982 and August 1983, with the help of local authorities and the Ministry of Defence, discovered containers of toxic chemicals, drugs, compressed gases, inflammable liquids, corrosives, munitions and pyrotechnics.

Of 24 suspected hazardous packages recovered from beaches, 131 contained substances listed under the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code.

The most dangerous consisted of four drums, containing 842 litres of ether, which is narcotic and inflammable and could explode spontaneously. They were found on beaches on Gwynedd and Dyfed, and a plastic container of acetaldehyde was washed ashore near Brighton.

In July 1983 emergency services alerted holiday-makers when 26 military pyrotechnics manufactured in The Netherlands drifted on to the beaches of Devon and Cornwall.

Since the survey was completed, 140 unmarked packages containing hydrogen peroxide, hydrochloric acid and inflammable liquids were discovered in Dorset between October and December, 1984. The county council was later told that they had been washed overboard from a vessel in the Bay of Biscay.

The report said that few of the packages carried markings to identify the content. In only 5 per cent of cases was advance warning received.

It calls for uniform international regulations similar to those used to control marine oil pollution.

These would require immediate reporting of the loss of dangerous deck cargoes; improved standards of marketing and labelling and a ban on the disposal of pyrotechnics, pharmaceuticals and garbage at sea.

The regulations would also allow compensation for local authorities for the cost of recovery and disposal and an agreed procedure for alerting emergency services of pyrotechnics likely to be washed ashore after military exercises.

Marine Litter Research Programme, Stage 6 (Keep Britain Tidy, Bostel House, 37 West Street, Brighton BN1 3RE, £3).

Plea for all-hours drinking

The restrictive alcohol licensing laws in England and Wales are neither necessary nor morally justifiable, a report published today by the Institute for Economic Affairs says.

Its author, Professor John Lewis, of Manchester University, says noise and disturbance are the only valid objections to allowing public houses to open at any time, day or night. Reform of the licensing laws would enlarge consumer choice and boost employment in the tourist industry.

Professor Lewis argues that at least 65,000 jobs would be created by reform if the tourist industry, now employing about 1.3 million, grew by just 5 per cent.

The report says: "Permitted hours should be considerably extended with an emphasis on flexibility, and the principle should be that closure is ordained by law or by conditions imposed by justices only where and when there are good social reasons specific to the premises."

"Need" should no longer be considered by justices when deciding whether to grant a licence. One important consequence of this would be that tied houses would face stronger competition.

"Taken together, these two recommendations would bring licensing laws closer to what a free society has a right to expect, and provide benefits that the present laws are preventing without good reason."

"If consideration of 'need' were to end... any fit person with suitable premises could sell alcohol at any time of the day or night, provided he did not thereby create a nuisance or violate laws relating to good order or other matters."

Professor Lewis says that since the liberalization of the licensing laws in Scotland in 1976, drunkenness and drink-related offences have declined there.

"On this evidence, it is difficult to sustain the argument that a relaxation of the law would lead to heavier drinking," he says.

Freedom to Drink, by John Lewis, Hobart Paper 103, Institute of Economic Affairs, Lord North Street, London SW1P 3LB, £2.50.

Soft-drinks pub planned

A public house with no beer is to open in Exeter in an attempt to help people with drink problems.

The public house, with pool table, dart board and the usual bar fittings, will serve soft drinks only. It has been sponsored by Exeter Community Alcohol Team.

Dr Tim Stockwell, a team member, said: "It will allow people with an alcohol problem to adjust to the atmosphere of a pub without drinking."

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Leading article, page 11

Three more councils ban beating in schools

By Colin Hughes

Pupils in another three local authorities start the school year today under a guarantee that corporal punishment will not be used.

The decision of Berkshire, Liverpool and Shropshire councils formally to ban physical punishment means that 22 out of 104 authorities in England and Wales have banned beating. Eight out of 12 Scottish authorities have abolished it, while Grampian, Tayside and the Western Isles retain beating only in secondary schools.

According to the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment (Stopp), 32 per cent of British schoolchildren are not subject to corporal punishment: two million out of 7.8 million in England and Wales, and 780,000 out of 860,000 in Scotland.

Berkshire is the first Conservative-controlled council to abolish the practice formally; although the authority has not used corporal punishment for several years. The ban will be written into governing body rules from today.

In Shropshire the council is hung and the decision to ban was passed with some Conservative votes.

Mr Martin Rosenbaum, Stopp's research co-ordinator, is today writing to the leaders of the 10 remaining Conservative-controlled authorities urging them to follow Berkshire's example.

The figures do not include voluntary-aided schools funded by local authorities, which are mostly church schools where head teachers and governors can decide policy.

Mr Porter, aged 43 and described as a "brilliant musician" was believed to have fallen 30 feet from a first-floor window. He had severe head wounds and is believed to have died almost immediately, although his body was not found for several hours. The police do not suspect crime.

Mr Porter, who was appointed by the Queen to play at her private chapel, was director of music at St George's Castle, where the Queen's Chorists are pupils.

His body was found by the school's headmaster, Mr George Hill, as he was about to put the cover on the swimming pool.

The Queen and members of the Royal Family were immediately told of Mr Porter's death.

Mr Hill said: "Mr Porter was a brilliant musician who probably worked too hard and was a perfectionist."

A post-mortem examination will be held today.

Queen's organist falls to death at Windsor

The body of Mr John Porter, an organist at St George's Chapel, Windsor, has been found beside a swimming pool in the grounds of Windsor Castle.

Mr Porter, aged 43 and described as a "brilliant musician" was believed to have fallen 30 feet from a first-floor window. He had severe head wounds and is believed to have died almost immediately, although his body was not found for several hours. The police do not suspect crime.

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Mr Hill said: "Mr Porter was a brilliant musician who probably worked too hard and was a perfectionist."

A post-mortem examination will be held today.

MPs' Esperanto group grows

A campaign to introduce Esperanto as a language option in British schools is now backed by 177 MPs making the Esperanto group the largest all-party group in Westminster. The addition of 24 new members was announced yesterday on the eve of Esperanto week.

The international language is taught in 15 British schools and a lecturer in Esperanto has recently been appointed by the University of Liverpool. The language, spoken by eight million people throughout the world, will be 100 years old in 1987.

Mr Almond lived at West Hampstead, north London, with his wife, Kay, aged 78, who was in court for the announcement.

Bishop and punk in rock Mass

A Church of England bishop is to star in a rock Mass alongside a punk who wants to become a priest.

The Right Rev John Yates, Bishop of Gloucester, is to sing the leading role in the Mass later this month to celebrate the opening of a new church in Cheltenham. Last night the bishop was on holiday, but the event organizer, the Rev John Heald, said: "It is an unusual way of celebrating a dedication service. We needed somebody to sing the part of the priest, and the bishop seemed an obvious choice."

Since he arrived in the parish of Uphatherley, Cheltenham, in 1980, the American-born vicar has boosted congregations from 70 to more than 200. Services at the church of St Philip and St James have become so popular that a £260,000 appeal was launched to double its size.

Some older worshippers were offended when Mr Heald introduced rock music and kissing and cuddling by members of the congregation during his services.

On September 21, the bishop will open the new building and then sing his part in the service, backed by punk Brian Ralph, aged 19, who is training to become a priest, and the church's rock band, Sanctus.

The bishop will sing all the main pieces in the Mass.

Prince has 'boring clothes'

The Prince of Wales is criticized today for the "dull and homely" clothes he wears.

The Menswear Association complains that he is no help to the industry, unlike the Princess of Wales who gets little ringing with her fashion sense.

The Prince is advised to stay at home and let his wife buy his clothes instead.

The association says: "It is not that he actually dresses badly; it is that his clothes are dull, boring and much too safe."

"The last Prince of Wales (who became King Edward VIII) was a real trend-setter and had as much influence on men's fashions in his day as Princess Diana does on women's today. In terms of exports, she is worth millions."

In a ballot among 2,600 retailers and manufacturers to find this year's best dressed man, the Prince polled just one vote.

The film critic, Barry Norman, won the award, beating Don Johnson, the American actor, Michael Aspel, Noel Edmonds, Brian Ferry, Roger Moore, Des O'Connor, Peter Dinklage, the night club owner, Kenny Dalglish, the footballer, and Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader.

Vera's blow to kindly reporter

Old Vera, a regular drunk who graced the dock at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court with amazing frequency, was always thankful for the charitable cigarette from gentleman court reporter Len Almond.

The big-hearted journalist was prompted to a greater act of kindness when Vera one day announced to the magistrate that it was her birthday.

Len sent an assistant to buy a suitable present and he duly presented her with a box of chocolate liquors.

The next day, when the magistrate demanded an explanation for her swift reappearance in the dock an indignant Vera pointed an accusing finger at the Press bench and belatedly: "It's all his bleeding fault."

"She blamed Len for the state she was in, and she never spoke to him again," Mr Timothy Lawrence, a solicitor, said at the court on Saturday. He told the story in paying tribute to the veteran reporter who died last Wednesday at the age of 73 after a heart attack.

He praised his accuracy and his discretion in distressing cases.

Mr Almond lived at West Hampstead, north London, with his wife, Kay, aged 78, who was in court for the announcement.

James Joyce death mask

Documents cast doubt on validity of sale

By Andrew Jaspas

Documents shown to *The Times* cast doubt on whether the James Joyce death mask, which was sold for £16,500 by Sotheby's in July, should have been put up for sale.

Joyce's grandson, Stephen James Joyce, asked Sotheby's to withdraw the mask, saying it had been given in 1955 to the Joyce Tower museum at Sandycove near Dublin.

The *Times* has been shown documents, affidavits, copies of letters exchanged at the time, and has spoken to people who were present during discussions before the mask was given to Mr Michael Scott, a Dublin architect who bought the tower in 1954 for a Joyce museum.

Mr Joyce's grandson, who lives in Paris, found out about the intended sale only two weeks before through press reports. He instructed his lawyer in London to oppose the sale. But as they were assembling their case to seek an injunction, they received a telephone call and a letter from Sotheby's saying the mask had been withdrawn from auction.

They were thrilled, but the next day they were told that Sotheby's had sold the mask privately to Mr Tony Ryan, an aircraft broker of Guinness Peak Aviation in Shannon. He bought it to ensure that the



Mr Scott (left), the James Joyce death mask and Mr Stephen Joyce.

mask stayed in Ireland. Nevertheless Mr Joyce was stunned.

Sotheby's now agree that if it can be proved that the seller did not have "good title to the mask" then that would be a serious breach of the Sale of Goods Act. The Sotheby's sale catalogue described the mask as having been "given to Michael Scott."

Mr Joyce, and the James Joyce Institute in Dublin have been in touch with every person involved with the mask and pieced together its history.

Joyce died in Zurich in 1941

and the next day Mrs Carola Gledion-Welcker, a friend of the family and a prominent art critic, asked Joyce's widow, Nora, if she could have two death masks made.

In 1953 Mrs Gledion-Welcker was contacted by Mr James White, director of the National Gallery in Dublin, who told her about the intended Joyce museum.

She was invited to Dublin where she was introduced to Mr Scott as the man who intended to buy the tower, renovate it and convert it into a museum.

"One of those present at that meeting in 1953 claimed last week: 'At no time was Scott being personally given the mask. It was a gift for the museum.'"

Mrs Gledion-Welcker also wrote in 1955 to Scott and a copy of that letter makes it quite clear that she wanted the mask to go to the tower, and she adds: "If the tower museum should ever close I would like the mask to be put elsewhere."

Mr Scott collected the mask in 1959 and the museum opened in 1962. In 1963 Mr Scott had seven bronze pulls

made of the mask. He sold one to Mr Stephen Joyce for £60, another was placed in the tower and a third in the Abbey Theatre, Dublin.

Friends of Mr Scott believe that after installing the bronzes at the tower and theatre, he felt he had fulfilled Mrs Gledion-Welcker's wishes and could do as he wanted with the original. Mrs Gledion-Welcker died in 1979. (She promised the second death mask to the Zurich museum.)

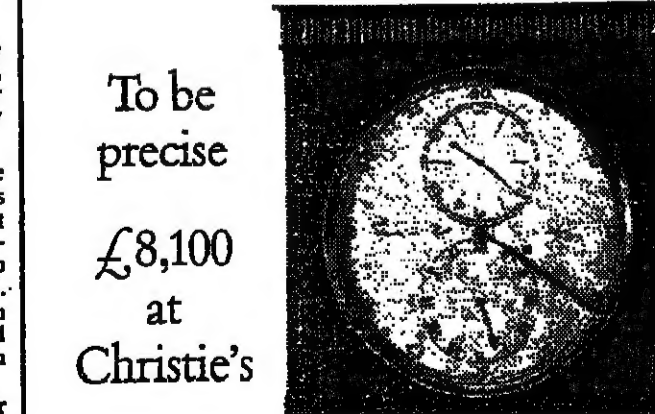
That evidence was put to Mr Scott last week but he refused to comment.

Mr Joyce has said that unless the sale is rescinded he will cancel his bequest of Joyce papers to Irish institutions.

Meanwhile, intermediaries in Dublin are seeking a solution. One idea being mooted is that Mr Scott gives Mr Ryan a number of paintings from his extensive art collection to the value of £16,500. Then Mr Ryan would return the mask and it would be placed in the tower.

Mr Joyce said: "I suppose the idea is to get everyone off the hook. What still angers me is the thought that my grandparents died almost penniless and someone 44 years later can profit from the death mask. That is just too much for me to suffer in silence."

CHRISTIE'S LONDON



To be precise
£8,100
at Christie's

This Regency mahogany longcase regulator, (detail shown), a clock made to be so precise that other clocks are set by it, was sold at Christie's in July 1985 for £8,100.

Christie's will be holding sales of Clocks and Watches in London on 16 October and 26 November. Closing date for entries in the November sale is 26 September.

For further information on buying and selling your property at Christie's, please contact Richard Garnier or Sam Cameron Cuss.

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Advertising on BBC 'a threat to editorial independence'

Advertising on the BBC would bring unwelcome commercial pressure on current affairs coverage and cause a fall in programming standards, according to BBC journalists.

In evidence to be submitted today to the Peacock committee, which is investigating ways of funding the corporation, the current affairs chapel (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists at BBC TV in Lime Grove argues that even a limited amount of advertising on BBC 1 would rapidly be allowed to increase and spread to BBC 2.

Mindful of the damage suffered by the BBC's reputation for independence in the wake of disputes over the *Real Live* documentary and alleged vetting by MI5, the chapel says: "Our first fear is that undue commercial pressure might be brought by advertisers to change the content."

The journalists criticized BBC management's lack of support in recent years for current affairs on prime time BBC 1, and say advertising would make matters worse.

Quoting evidence from Australia and New Zealand, where the proportion of the broadcasting corporations' income from advertising rapidly increased, the chapel says: "No British government of whatever politi-

Farmer's private Roman Empire

By Alan Hamilton

There is little to see on Mr Harold Cooper's rolling Essex farmland except acres of pale wheat ripening for a late harvest.

But barely 18 inches beneath the soil lie the remains of a 12-acre Roman agricultural settlement. Since his plough turned up the first ancient clay tile in 1948, Mr Cooper has been excavating and documenting the site almost single-handed, and has amassed several tons of pottery and artefacts.

The economics of farming have obliged Mr Cooper to fill in his trenches and return the field to grain, but his work has finally achieved official recognition with the publication of a full academic study of his finds by archaeologists at the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

If there was sufficient public interest, Mr Cooper says, he might consider laying bare once again the 120ft by 60ft foundations of the main building, and of the adjoining temple with its remains of a mosaic floor.

The site, at Gestingthorpe, 20 miles from the big Roman settlement at Colchester, is thought to have been a posting station or agricultural market centre with granaries and workshops. It is one of the few such sites to have been studied over such a long period: archaeologists is often a rushed job in the face of impatient developers.



Mr Cooper with one of the treasures on his Essex farm (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

Coins found at the site date the occupation from about 50BC, probably by Belgic refugees from the Roman conquest of Gaul, to 423AD, the very end of the Roman era in Britain.

Mr Cooper's finds range from intact clay jars with lids and impressions of shoes, dogs' paws and textiles in the clay, to intricate bronze and silver jewellery, door hinges, carpenters' tools, and surgical instruments.

An important discovery was that of clay moulds for casting statuettes of the god Bacchus, rare proof of casting in Britain. Cupboards, boxes and display cabinets in Mr Cooper's farmhouse bulge with his wealth of discoveries.

One puzzle about the Ges-

tingthorpe site is that it has never shown up on any aerial photographic survey, a usually reliable method of detecting ancient settlements. That leads Mr Cooper to believe that there are many more, undiscovered Roman sites in East Anglia.

East Anglian Archaeology, No 25, (Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission/Essex County Council).

Help for Singapore

Taxi drivers benefit as more money boosts the economy

From Paul Routledge, Singapore

The Singapore Government is introducing a second batch of emergency measures to boost the flagging economy by more than £130 million a year. But its ministers will not be obliged to suffer salary cuts.

Tax changes announced during a livelier than usual two-day session of Parliament will make petrol 8p a litre cheaper from today. Industry and commerce will benefit from further easing of property taxes and abolition of fuel oil duty. Taxi drivers, recently a vociferous source of criticism of the Government, will pay only £350 a year diesel tax from next month - a sixth of the figure proposed earlier.

Together with measures introduced on July 26, the Government has now injected nearly £300 million a year into the economy. The First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong, told MPs at a sitting that lasted late into Saturday evening.

"The Government will do whatever is necessary and practical to pull Singapore out of the recession," he said. "But it cannot go on cutting taxes all the time. The budget has to be improving."

Business and workers must play their part by improving productivity and curbing wage restraint, he went on. "It may take two or perhaps three years before we can swing the economy around. Let us tackle the current economic downturn soberly and responsibly."

A proposal by the outspoken Workers' Party Opposition MP, Mr J. B. Jeyaretnam, that Ministers should set an example by accepting a 25 per cent salary cut was rejected by MPs. Cabinet Ministers in Singapore do not rank low in the world league table of politicians' salaries. Mr Goh himself earns about £82,500 a year, while the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, is paid about £100,000, according to statistics published in the last budget statement.

The Government is not asking for an across-the-board wage cut. "We want to maintain our standards of living," Mr Goh insisted. "Reducing wages must be the action of last resort."

However, ministers are looking at ways to "loosen up" the national wage bargaining system by shifting the emphasis towards direct negotiations between unions and employers. There is also pressure on Singaporeans to accept the introduction of more night shift working in factories.

The Deputy Prime Minister said: "We have to agree on the strategy. If there is no consensus, we will pull in different directions and very quickly pull the economy apart."

An estimated 7,000 Singaporeans have lost their jobs in the first six months of the year, but all who want to work can find it if they are not too choosy, "the Government maintains. There is no formal system of unemployment benefit and ministers say Singapore must avoid the welfare trap of advanced countries. Official policy remains: "Good pay for good work, no pay for no work."

Tomorrow Paul Routledge begins a two-part series on Singapore's economic problems.

President who resigned refuses pension offer

Singapore - The former President of Singapore, Mr C. V. Devan Nair, has turned down a £20,000-a-year pension approved by the island's Parliament on condition that he "continues to receive and abide by" medical treatment for alcoholism (Paul Routledge writes).

Within hours of the vote by MPs to grant the conditional pension, a statement from his family declined the offer without giving a reason. Mr Devan Nair, aged 61, resigned the presidency on medical grounds in March.

His second son, Mr Devan Jananitra, aged 29 said: "My mother, brothers, sister and I support my father's decision."

Meanwhile, Mr Wee Kim Wee, aged 69, will be sworn in ceremonially as the nation's last President to be chosen by MPs only. The Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, has announced that the next head of state will be chosen by universal suffrage.

In the absence of any formal explanation, there is speculation that the conditions attached to the pension run

wider than purely medical considerations, and could be designed to keep the lid on political disagreements at the highest level.

Since he returned from the New York clinic where he spent three months undergoing treatment, the former president has remained largely inaccessible except to close family and former Cabinet colleagues.



Mr C. V. Devan Nair: Remaining inaccessible

China says it will not leave Tibet

Peking (Reuters) - China yesterday marked the 20th anniversary of Tibet's designation as a Chinese autonomous region by reiterating Peking's sovereignty and promising prosperity for Tibetans.

The official New China news agency said the Communist Party leadership sent a message to Tibet emphasizing that the region was part of China.

Chinese troops marched into Tibet in 1951 and put down an uprising in 1959. The Dalai Lama fled into exile. Now head of the Tibetan independence movement, he continues to call for a Chinese withdrawal.

He has considered returning to Tibet in recent years, but Peking says he can only visit his homeland, not live there. In *The New York Times* recently he accused Peking of planning to swamp Tibet with Chinese settlers.

A delegation from Peking headed by the rising political star, Mr Hu Qili, was in Lhasa for yesterday's ceremonies. The pro-Chinese Tibetan religious leader, the Panchen Lama, told a rally in Lhasa that the Cultural Revolution had caused great damage to Tibet, but he added that achievements since Chinese rule was established had on the whole been tremendous. "They are there for all to see."

● DELHI: Hundreds of exiled Tibetans staged a demonstration here yesterday to protest against the celebrations.

Spain joins Eurofighter project

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain will take part in the European fighter aircraft project with Britain, West Germany and Italy, Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, indicated in an interview made public yesterday.

The project, to build more than 800 aircraft at a cost of about £20 billion, was agreed by the other three countries in Turin a month ago. Spain followed France in withholding agreement because of divergent views on strategic and technical requirements.

But after intense lobbying by officials of the three participating countries, Spain's Defence Ministry and the aircraft industry have persuaded the Government to take part. Señor Gonzalez now says: "We would like France not to stand aside, but Spain under all circumstances is going to take part."

Spain is anxious to get the latest aviation technology and reduce its present dependence on American and French fighter aircraft.

It is likely to take about 100 of the aircraft. The decision had been promised by Madrid before the end of August but it failed to emerge from last week's Cabinet meeting. Señor Gonzalez chose to reveal it in an interview given to the New China news agency before his visit to Peking, beginning tomorrow.

Uganda peace move

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Uganda announced yesterday that peace talks between the ruling Military Council and the National Resistance Army - the biggest of the guerrilla groups which had been fighting the Obote government - are to resume in Nairobi on Wednesday.

They opened last week with President Moi of Kenya as neutral chairman, but were adjourned to allow both sides to carry out more consultations.

The Military Council delegation was apparently not ready to accept all the demands by the NRA leader Mr Yoweri Museveni, who wants half the seats on the Military Council.

News that the talks were resuming has helped to calm the atmosphere in Kampala, where many Ugandans are apprehensive about the return of members of the Army who fled into exile when Idi Amin was overthrown in 1979.

Ear hi tea

Sir Keith yesterday, ho of a third set by industrial money might teachers in E at the end of t The Secret Education sa radio 4 progr his 11 weekn loyers had mproved pa achers, who ty settlement ore cash for l Sir Keith sa a new pac ney offered nt could be teachers by i Te was then, an more n chers this ya the employ negotiate thir so would he, ut he added: bargain were ernment, th lease extra r and the sul the fact r could con money wo into ations, but very tight c said that the "a very on settlin it was why, a £1.25 bill ur years. ith believ or a settl an they hac 400 de t general sec Association Union, appeari gramme, can dect ability co nment, might allo for 1986 1985. Tha to pave it aid that, ir £1.25 billi nment i nt extra f lly is not up us".

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Bonn plays down spy scandal

Bonn officials yesterday claimed the Tiedge defection affair, the worst security scandal in West Germany in decades, had not damaged its relations with either the West or East.

Herr Waldemar Schreckenberg, State Secretary in Herr Kohl's Chancellery and co-ordinator of West Germany's three secret services, said their work with their Nato counterparts had not suffered. "Our allies have always shown understanding for West Germany's heightened danger situation in a divided country", he said.

Herr Friedhelm Ott, chief government spokesman, said both East and West Germany wanted to continue to talk in spite of the Tiedge defection. This was Herr Kohl's intention, but East Germany also had good grounds to go on talking, not least on economic co-operation, he said.

Bonn's business as usual attitude toward East Germany was supported yesterday when Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, the conservative Bavarian Prime Minister and chairman of the Christian Social Union, flew to Leipzig for talks with Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader.

Before leaving, Herr Strauss told a West German Sunday newspaper: "One should not make too much fuss about East German spying in the federal republic. Espionage is as old as the oldest business in the world."

In Leipzig Herr Honecker, speaking to West German officials for the first time since the spy affair, said both countries should be able to overcome "turbulences" and develop normal relations.

Norway's Conservative-led coalition government seems to be slightly ahead according to an opinion poll published in the newspaper *Aftenposten* at the other recent polls predicted conflicting results in the parliamentary elections a week today.

Last weekend, a survey done for the Labour press indicated increasing support for the opposition Labour Party. A few days later one sponsored by the Conservatives showed the opposite trend.

On Friday the controversial Progress Party expressed its readiness to join the existing three-party coalition, the Conservatives, the Christian People's Party and the Labour Party. If the coalition attracts support from the right wing Progress Party, several polls could be interpreted to show that the Government would survive.

The most recent poll, published on Saturday, supported this view. At the same time, it suggested a slight decline in support for the two big parties

[illegible]

Beirut (Reuters) — A delegation of Lebanese Christian politicians returned to Beirut yesterday after two days of talks in Damascus with Syria's Vice-President, Mr. Abdel Halim Khaddam. The discussions were said to have covered security, prospects for reconciliation between Lebanon's factions and the Muslim majority's demands for more say in running the country.

Mr. Habib Berri, head of the Shia Muslim Amal movement, and a Cabinet Minister, on Saturday reiterated demands for an end to Lebanon's sectarian political system. The presidency, at present held by Maronite Christians, should rotate between six sects he said in a rally in east Lebanon.

Mr. Berri said the Amal group, *Al-Amal* said Mr. Khaddam told the Phalangist Vice President, Mr. George Saadon, and other party officials that a security committee should take "appropriate steps" to consolidate a ceasefire that ended heavy shelling round Beirut.

The committee is dockloaded on the port, and Syrian observers to monitor the ceasefire, which was threatened again on Saturday by sporadic shell-fire in hills near the capital, in which Beirut radio said 16 people were wounded.

The Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia has agreed to deployment of Syrian observers along the battlefield dividing the capital, to reduce Muslim demands that the observers be deployed deep inside Christian east Beirut.

In a bitter message to the delegates of the World Chess Federation congress at Graz, Gary Kasparov has attacked the organization's president for "inordinate delay in appointing arbiters for the coming world championship. The match begins in Moscow on Tuesday."

As *The Times* reported on Saturday, Andrei Malchev (Bulgaria) and Vlasdas Milkenas (USSR) were appointed joint chief arbiters on Friday in the final minute of the last full session of the Graz congress.

Kasparov's message said: "The more I am asked to protest against the numerous errors and obvious provocations committed by Fide president Florencio Campomanes in arranging the imminent title match between Karpov and myself."

Kasparov said the last-minute selection of arbiters was an "unprecedented scandal" and went on to denounce the president's rejection of German grandmaster Lothar Schmid as arbiter.

"Campomanes, ignoring all my requests, puts me in a handicap situation. Under the president of the chess world's best interests, I feel obliged to play my match with Karpov even under such conditions. I only hope that the fate of the world's chess title will be decided on the chess board this time."

This was a reference to Mr Campomanes's premature termination of the match on February 15, when Kasparov had won two successive games.

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South Africa in turmoil

Black miners strike at five gold mines and two collieries

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Black South African coal miners went on strike yesterday several hours before the deadline set by the National Union of Mineworkers for action by 60,000 of its members in five gold mines and two collieries.

The union has warned that if the companies affected take reprisals, it will call for strike action by up to 250,000 members in claims among the 550,000 blacks in the industry.

The two Transvaal Navigation collieries, near Witbank in the Eastern Transvaal, are owned by Gencor, the Afrikaans-controlled company which refused to make any improved pay offer above the 14 to 19 per cent awarded by the Chamber of Mines, the employer's body.

The union first called for action a week ago at 29 gold and coal mines but postponed it when Anglo American Corporation and Rand Mines made improved offers that brought their pay awards close to the 22 per cent demanded.

The gold mines affected by the strike are owned by Anglovaal and Gold Fields of South Africa, both of whom offered only an extra 10 per cent in holiday payments.

The strike started as the "Troika" of EEC foreign minis-

ters concluded a three-day visit to South Africa as prelude to a meeting in Brussels on September 10 at which member countries will try to formulate a common anti-apartheid strategy.

The three ministers: Mr Jacques Poos of Luxembourg, Signor Giulio Andreotti of Italy and Mr Hans van den Broek of The Netherlands, held two sessions of talks with President Botha and members of his cabinet in Cape Town on Saturday but failed to meet a delegation of the United Democratic Front (UDF).

Mr Murphy Morobe, the UDF's acting publicity secretary, stated: "The fact that these ministers backed down on their original demand to speak to Mr Nelson Mandela has been seen as a capitulation to the South African Government."

A meeting was made even more difficult, he said, because "many leaders of the UDF are also languishing in jail under the state of emergency and the Internal Security Act."

It is believed that the UDF was worried that if it attended talks, scheduled to be held in the Dutch Consulate in Cape Town, security police would make more arrests.

Pressure on the Government from business leaders to speed reform is growing. Dr Anton Rupert, head of the international Carreras tobacco empire and the country's leading Afrikaner businessman has asked for an urgent meeting with Mr Botha.

A team of businessmen is preparing to leave for Lusaka, Zambia, to meet leaders of the African National Congress. Although the congress views South African big business as being closely aligned with the Government, it sees the request for talks as a sign of concern over the deepening crisis.

● Rugby ban: The non-racial South African Rugby Union called off all fixtures in the Western Cape yesterday after a player was allegedly shot dead by security forces while returning from a rugby club meeting to his home in Mitchell's Plain (AFP reports).

Mr Mogamat Isa Ebrahim died during a sweep of the township by the police on Saturday, his family alleged. The police would not confirm the shooting.

The case for sanctions, page 10

Loans mission in trouble

From Our Correspondent, Washington

South Africa's emergency mission to Western financial capitals is running into serious obstacles. Bankers - more out of political than economic considerations - are reluctant to adopt the simple solution of issuing new loans, preferring to search for a more politically acceptable way to save the Pretoria Government from becoming a defaulter.

Dr Gerhard de Kock, Governor of South Africa's Central Bank, held lengthy talks in New York on Saturday with Clinton, America's largest bank, which probably has the biggest stake in South Africa of any US bank. Dr de Kock was left in no doubt about the enormous political pressures on American banks not to be seen to be underpinning apartheid.

Even the refinancing of existing debt would be likely to embroil American lending institutions in controversy, though bankers feel they could weather the storm, especially since they could count on a sympathetic public response from the Reagan Administration.

The signs are, however, that protracted negotiations would be necessary to find a politically acceptable international response to Pretoria's short-term debt crisis.

The International Monetary Fund is unlikely to help. The black African members on the 22-member board are determined to block any assistance programme. Britain and America, which carry considerable weight at the IMF, appear to have decided not to pressure the organization to lend assistance.

Normally the IMF demands precise economic steps in exchange for lending, but since apartheid decisively governs the economic structure in South Africa, such demands would clearly not be met. The usual sort of package that has helped such countries as Mexico therefore does not apply.

American banks withdrew \$500 million from South Africa in the first quarter of this year and about the same in the second. Their refusal to extend new credit helped to create the short-term debt crisis. The options seem to come down to giving South Africa more breathing space to repay its short-term debts, while coughing it in terms which avoid the emotive word "default", though technically that is what it might amount to. South Africa might assert its determination and ability to pay, while emphasizing the underlying strength of its economy, to try to avoid shock waves in the international financial system.

The banks though remain worried that they will be seen to be helping apartheid to survive, no matter how the package is dressed. Rather than "default", the word circulating in the United States this weekend is "moralatorium" on payments, signalling a possible accord on helping South Africa over its immediate crisis.

UK ready to forget Paris slurs

By Nicholas Ashford

Diplomatic Correspondent

Authorities on both sides of the Channel are trying to bury a dispute, which has been raging in British and French newspapers in the past week, about unofficial French allegations of a possible British role in the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior.

In Paris, the French have privately expressed regret to British diplomats that the reports may have been inspired by the "briefings" by the French Ministry of Defence to selected French journalists.

In London, the Foreign Office is trying to shrug off the whole matter by saying that it has seen no evidence whatever that the French have been trying - either in private or in public - to blame the British secret service for masterminding the sinking of the Greenpeace vessel.

Allegations about possible British involvement were made after a press conference given by M Bernard Tricot, author of the official French report on the bombing. When asked whether he could rule out possible British involvement, he replied: "I can rule out nothing."

This remark was followed by a spate of speculative press reports that the bombing may have been engineered by the British, with the French because of France's role in supplying and servicing Argentinian Exocet missiles during the Falklands conflict, and the planting of a "bomb" by the French secret service in the French Embassy gardens during President Mitterrand's visit to London last year, to test security.

The view in London is that the story is based more on imaginative reporting than on facts.

Ivory Coast hosts famine relief concerts

From Richard Everett, Abidjan

African musicians, led by the Zairian pop star Franco Luambo Makiadi, held two concerts here this weekend in aid of famine relief.

The two-concert event, called Operation Africa and said to be the first of its kind "by Africans for Africans", follows the Live Aid concerts in London and Philadelphia which raised millions for relief.

One concert was held for Ivory Coast dignitaries in the

concert hall of the city's leading hotel while a cheaper "popular" show in a football stadium attracted 4,000 people.

Musicians and dancers from 15 countries took part in a colourful mixture of modern and traditional African music rhythm and blues and break-dancing.

The musicians are due to record a song entitled "Africa" written by the Zairian musician Moro Maurice. Proceeds from

the concerts and sales of the record will be donated to Medicine Sans Frontières, a group of French, Belgian and Dutch doctors.

The concert promoter, Mr Daniel Cuxac, said the money raised would be small compared with American and British efforts. "We don't have the same kind of resources, but we are making the effort, which is what's important."

The wedding will be at the beach resort home of Mr Renouf, who has been married once and is a grandfather. A former Oxford Blue at tennis, he was New Zealand's first merchant banker and heads a giant corporation.

Mr Palmer said last night that he intended to talk to London about the legislation because the Royal Navy as well as the US Navy followed the policy of never confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons.

Outlining some of the provisions of the legislation for the first time yesterday, Mr Lange said it would place the responsibility for decisions on ship visits on the Prime Minister. But the legislation would, however, allow decisions to be challenged in court.

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THE ARTS

Television

Diminished vitality

"It's not my fault if God has seen fit to make you into a cripple," says Alf to Elsie, death having not parted them and the BBC, maybe feeling a certain vulnerability, having decided to take advantage of their longevity and our nostalgia, and return Mr and Mrs Garnett for a six-part Sabbath series.

Warren Mitchell, in the person of Johnny Speight's atavistic creation, proved in the Sixties that foul was fair game; that the public waves could bear with success a series articulating prejudices long current elsewhere. In *Sickness and Health* finds Elsie with rheumatoid arthritis in a wheelchair and Alf, who, if the Almighty were easily provoked to retribution on this side, might well have been expected to have been visited with an affliction, rudely garrulous and healthy and, as ever, the complainer.

His targets are as before: Blacks, doctors, Catholics (Jews will no doubt not miss out) and, inevitably, the stoic Elsie. In that role, Dandy Nichols proved that age has not diminished her capacity to wither with a look and a one-liner. One might have expected "if only for her resolutions" towards "her unions", that Mrs Thatcher might have liberated Alf from his anti-female posture but, it appears, her sex still excludes her from the small compass of his idols.

West Ham, of course, brook large. It was predictable that our last sight of Alf would be in a prime position at the match in Elsie's appropriated wheelchair. It was all rather funny but, like the Garnetts, diminished in vitality. Are we laughing, one wonders as before, from relief because prejudices are dissipating, or in appreciation of their endurance?

Yorkshire, with Churchill's *Battle of Britain*, and its survivors, many of them members of the Guinness Club, one of them a German, a must in such programmes nowadays, meeting the man who ended his war for him.

John Willis's programme was a valid reminder that heroism was needed after victory. Mr Geoffrey Page, for instance, he had 14 victories to his credit in the war, was shot down three times, and badly disfigured the first time. His total of operations so far numbers 37. The pain, he said, got worse with age. He still works in aviation insurance and lives on pain-killers. He and his comrades, he said, did not grumble about growing old because "so many were denied the privilege".

Then there was Mr Bob Doe, an unsung ace, number three in the pecking order in the battle, reflecting on the face he had acquired after a crash, obviously gaining satisfaction from being able to see himself as he once was in his son. Now 71, he tends a small garage in Kent and shuns reunions: "I don't like exhibiting my scars in public, if you like". A good programme.

BBC's *Howard's War* is a 13-part series devised, presumably, with a soapbox of clichés. By Gerard Glaister and Allan Prior, chronicling the rise from redundancy of an aircraft designer, played by Maurice Colbourne. It will be repeated on Wednesdays for those who miss the first showing and fancy a diet of middle-class marital mayhem and apprehensions about keeping up with the Joneses. The redundant may prefer to look elsewhere.

Dennis Hackett



The genial and masterly George Rose with the suspects in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*; and the sleek send-up of *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*: Robert Carey (left), Arnie Kolodner, Charles Busch

Theatre in New York

Dickens endearingly finished

The enchantment cannot just be the seductive atmosphere of the New York Shakespeare Festival's theatre in Central Park, for I resisted its lure in June by finding Joseph Papp's production of *Measure for Measure* there too tepid to write about. Much as the Park adds to the fictional setting of an outdoor Victorian pavilion at Greater Dorrington-on-Sea, where a hammy company is presenting *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, the background is only one charm of Rupert Holmes's musical adaptation, and Wilford Leach's staging, of Charles Dickens's unfinished novel.

Mr Holmes speaks with forked tongue, one side articulating Dickens and the other wagging in his cheek. The tone is set from the beginning, when the ever-genial and masterly George Rose relates that the show is given on the same stage where local schoolchildren distinguished themselves in an unexpurgated version of *Beowulf*, and that he must double as the MC and Mayor Sapsca because an

actor is indisposed due to a fight for a lady's honour. "The lady apparently wished to keep it."

Off to a merry start, we see most of Dickens's plot in Act I, in much of his dialogue, interspersed with the antics of the actors commenting on their characters and being themselves. Most fanciful are Joan Schneider, who makes Helena Landless a comically beguiling oriental siren, and the troupe's prima donna, Betty Buckley, who with her clarion singing voice (she won a Tony as Grizabella in *Cats*) impersonates Edwin Drood engagingly and flounders funnily when out of drag.

Howard McGillin and Patti Cohenour, who earned acclaim as Marcello and Mimì in *La Bohème* this season, glow as the young leads - Mr McGillin so sinister the audience soon starts hissing him yet always suggesting the pathos of John Jasper, and Miss Cohenour a maiden with such reserves of character that she was voted the murderess the night I

attended. Both have shimmering voices and are given special opportunities in "Moonfall", a haunting ballad which courses through the show like a theme. First sung to reveal Jasper's unwelcome love for Rosa, it appears subsequently as an harmonic burst of longing by the schoolgirls and, rising to a tormented intensity reminiscent of *Sweeney Todd* in the first act finale.

Cleo Laine as Princess Puffer is the audience's darling, with her dusky voice and gregarious personality, and the rest of the performers add up to the most congenial cast in town. Even if the second act were not exceedingly clever in inviting the audience to finish Dickens's novel itself by voting on the romantic attachments, the identity of Dick, Datchery and the murderer (so far, I am told, the Princess always gets married and Jasper has never been found guilty), and providing alternative endings to fit the verdicts, this is a show whose



ingenious conception and endearing performances left me wanting more.

New York's summer season was also marked by a noble experiment, a sleeper hit, and a hanger-on. The first was the American Theater Exchange at Off-Broadway's Joyce Theatre. Sponsored by the Joyce Theatre Foundation, the summer festival sought to bring representatively worthy regional company productions to New York. The Yale Repertory Theatre's staging of Faulkner's *Bicycle*, a new work by the Canadian playwright Heather McDonald, the Alley Theatre of Houston's production of Ayckbourn's *Season's Greetings* and the Mark Taper Forum of Los Angeles' version of *In the Belly of the Beast* enhanced the local scene.

The sleeper hit was a double bill camp frolic by Charles Busch at the Provincetown Playhouse, *Sleeping Beauty* or *Coma* spoofs London fashion fads and celebrities of the Sixties and health crazes today, while

Vampire Lesbians of Sodom sends up show-business horror erotica with vivid costumes and sets and sleek performances (several in drag).

In spite of mostly poisonous reviews, *Singin' in the Rain* is not only hanging on at Broadway's Gershwin Theatre but has increased its audience continuously since opening in the first week of July. This may be due to summer tourists and the paucity of Broadway shows, but some tribute belongs to the producers who poured in extra money and the creators and performers who took pay-cuts to keep it going. While I am among those who find the production an empty spectacle with only one star turn - Faye Grant as the silent movie queen - I salute its will to survive. Its future is doubtful, but *The Tap Dance Kid* beat the odds, and maybe this *Singin' in the Rain* will become "Laughin' All the Way to the Bank".

Holly Hill



Orchestre de Paris/Barenboim

For anyone with a window opening on to Princesse-Sceenfor just three or four days in Edinburgh, the relationship between bagpipes and *Bolero* is not as distant as might at first seem. As the last celebrations of the Auld Alliance brought this year's festival to a close, it was Ravel who dominated Friday's concert by the Orchestre de Paris conducted by Daniel Barenboim.

Or, rather, not conducted by Barenboim. After mesmerizing into submission each solo wind player - the velvet-gloved clarinet, the sub-aquatic bassoon - Barenboim simply stopped. Hands clasped in front of him and baton down, he would lean slightly into the music's swell or flex his back muscles into its syncopations and let two drummers up front do the rest. It was a rare, robust performance, more like heavy funk than anything else, short-cutting Ravel's long, gradual

crescendo a little, but audaciously invigorating.

Ravel himself once described the work as "orchestral tissue without music". Although it would be overstating the case to stick his phrase on to Barenboim's performance of Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony, it did seem as if the idea of osmosis, of repetition and a massing of resources, had got stuck under the orchestra's skin in rehearsal. The near-hypnotic effect of the opening's repeated figures, and the direction given them by Barenboim's urgent, legato phrasing, showed off splendidly the blend and balance of ensemble which he has perfected in this orchestra in his 10 years with them.

It was not enough, though, to sustain interest in the following movement, which, motivated by the same apparent desire for orchestral homogeneity, began to seem rather bland. With soloists like the orchestra's clarinetist and oboist, it was a pity that the slow movement lacked inner detail, though they considerably livened the rather heavy-footed merrymaking.

In between Beethoven and *Bolero* came Ravel's *Rapsodie espagnole*. Here the orchestra found great spontaneity of reaction and more finely tuned responses, and obviously enjoyed their most imaginative and arresting skills at cueing each other in.

Hilary Finch

BBCPO/Downes

Albert Hall/Radio 3

The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra's enterprising fiftieth-anniversary season has culminated in five Prom programmes. The last of these, on Saturday (which included a typically cogent performance of Brahms's Piano Concerto No 2 by John Lill), offered the chance to hear again Peter Maxwell Davies's Symphony No 3, premiered by the orchestra under Edward Downes last February.

The same forces have also recorded the symphony for issue by BBC Records: an important step, for theirs is a thoroughly convincing interpretation of a serious yet

Promenade Concerts

approachable work which repays close scrutiny.

The shift in emphasis during Maxwell Davies's career, from music-theatre pieces dripping with brittle ironies to profoundly argued symphonic works, is one of the wonders of the modern musical age. The challenging, sardonic quality is still there: in, for instance, the uneasy mood and tangential references of the two interludes which separate this symphony's outer movements.

But Maxwell Davies's famously angular melodic contours have been softened, and the harshness of his chromaticism is now tempered with more soothing diatonicism. Indeed, this contrast helps to generate his symphonic argument. The notable definition of

foreground and background is often achieved by projecting memorable melodic ideas into a mesh of prolonged dissonances.

Elsewhere, monody has the whole arena almost to itself, as in the opening where a flute lays down the barest bones of the work's thematic material. This pervasive beginning which, in one of the symphony's best passages, is whipped up into an allegretto of arriving individuality and pulsating momentum, recurs at the start of the final movement. But here the tempo remains slow, rising in tension towards an apotheosis which sets a winding string tune, almost Mahlerian in its expressionist leaps, against some beautifully-scored wind chords.

Richard Morrison

BBCPO/Slatkin

Albert Hall/Radio 3

Spirited independence is something too deep in American culture to appear only in the work of musical iconoclasts like Charles Ives and John Cage: it affects bodily the music of even such thoroughly Europeanized composers as Walter Piston, whose Second Symphony was the American visitor to Friday night's Prom programme. For,

though Piston's aim here would seem to be an extinction of personality in the blandly correct, signs of unruliness will keep poking through.

Sometimes this appears deliberate, as when the slow-moving middle movement is eventually brought around to face up to some harmonic nastiness. Other points are more equivocal. It is not clear, for instance, whether the jazzy rhythms are conscious Americanism or whether they come unbidden whenever Piston tries for a quick pace. The fact that he does so only twice, in the secondary material of the opening movement and in the finale, might suggest some embarrassment, as might the extraordinary brevity of that rumbustious last movement.

Other awkwardnesses in the structure, though, are less explicable, unless as the occasional malapropos and misaccusations of one speaking a foreign language. In the first movement, for instance, the introduction of the jazzed-up music is baldly contrived; one can imagine the movement existing perfectly well, indeed

better, without it, becoming just the quest of a long slow melody for the dignity of a chorale, which it is eventually granted by the brass.

Leonard Slatkin's performance made much of the climaxes, which perhaps contributed to the sense of the finale as being too short, though Piston's probity and general fluency were not in doubt. It is a style that has more to do with contemporary Hindemith (the work dates from 1943) and possibly with Fauré than with Stravinsky, but the latter's Concerto in D and 1919 *Firebird* suite made an apt frame for the concert, even if both had marred detail: Slatkin was best in the emphatic attacks of the "Infernal Dance" and in his smiling with the *danstans* qualities of the Concerto.

Then Alicia de Larrocha made Mozart's C minor Piano Concerto seem veritably neo-classical with her firm outlining of its counterpoint. She was unfortunate that her phrasing could not be matched by the below-form BBC Philharmonic.

Paul Griffiths

South Bank Summer Music

True flavour of innocent fun

The Marriage of Pantalone

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Pleased though I am to have witnessed it, our theatre critic ought really to be writing about this extraordinary event. For *The Marriage of Pantalone*, with which this year's South Bank Summer Music series finished at the weekend, is *commedia dell'arte*. It is not an authentic one, in so far as it does not recreate a particular event, but it is nevertheless very much the real thing in the sense that Anthony Rooley and Titina Carrara have brought to life the flavour of that zany, canny genre in their free selection of words, action and music.

Carrara leads a group, La Famiglia Carrara, which has been involved with *commedia*

dell'arte for over three and a half centuries. Here he himself played Zanni, Pantalone's servant (all the characters were the stock ones), reacting to fellow players and audience alike with the sort of spontaneity and split-second timing that makes his work high art.

Sharing his sexual preoccupations was Pantalone (Argia Laurini), forever rubbing the bulging purse dangling suggestively between his legs. Tasteless? Not a bit of it when the thing is presented with such innocent enjoyment. And in any case to balance him there was the absurdly romantic Carlo Prosio as Ottavio, whose static love-lorn poses were beautifully controlled, while on the female side a similar contrast was to be seen between Isabella, Ottavio's desired one (Annalisa Peserico)

and her servant Franceschina (Pierluigi Cecconi).

The music, just in case you were wondering, was taken mostly from the work of Oratio Vecchi, whose straightforward settings of *commedia dell'arte*-related texts were here an ideal basis for some - let us say - characterful interpretations from the Consort of Musick's astute vocal ensemble. Room was also found somehow for two wholly serious numbers. Andrew King delivered Monteverdi's *Tempo la Cera* with appositely youthful ardour, and Emma Kirkby duly relished the emotiveness of the same composer's *Lamento della Ninfa*, the lutes gently strumming that obsessive ground bass beneath her. The line between levity and seriousness is indeed a thin one.

Stephen Pettitt

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SPECTRUM

Is this the last round for the local?

The great British pub has undergone many a transformation. Today, in a swiftly-changing society, it is being assailed on all sides. Derek Harris examines its capacity to survive

Are we about to lose the British pub as we have known and loved it? It's hardly the newest tap-room topic but it has acquired a new urgency as the effects of recession and then of the first industrial and social change are ushering in different drinking habits and a new generation of pub patrons.

Recession has cut back drinks sales, especially beer. The decline of heavy industry has led to a cooling of the traditional, gargantuan furnace of a third among its workers. All-male drinking sessions are less common now that the social stigma of women using pubs has all but vanished.

The fortunes of the public house are being buffeted by other factors. There is a vociferous and growing anti-alcohol lobby and more drinking than ever before is being done at home, or at least off pub premises.

On the plus side for brewers more pubs are attracting the potentially massive family trade, which is increasingly reflected by today's "in" drinks - lager and white wine. Pub food has arrived in a big way and, perhaps most significant of all, this is proving to be the age of the "theme" pub.

Pubs are not dying: they are evolving, latching on to today's changing tastes, needs and social preferences. But haven't they always?

Ale was probably brewed in Britain as long ago as 3,000 BC. During the Roman occupation buildings were set aside for shelter and refreshment. The Saxon period saw *laverne* appearing, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* begins in the Tabard, a tavern of "hostelry" in Southwark, London.

Inn signs are redolent of the country's long history, from Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem in Nottingham, one of the pubs claiming to be England's oldest, to the many Green Man pubs whose names go back to pre-Christian times. There are said to be at least 1,000 monarchy-oriented Crown pubs. It is easily the most common pub name still. Red Lions number possibly 900, and Ploughs 300. There are 400 King's Heads and 300 Queen's Heads. The



Ale across the years: the "lads" of the Rose and Crown, Bradford Abbas, Dorset, in 1934; from left, George Chainey, James Higgins, Samuel Ring, Thomas Coombs and Sidney Parsons - and, half a century on, the same bar with today's lads: Ian Davis, Mark Hopkins, Braddon Mear, Stephen Gardner and Chris Fisher

Brewers have turned to food as if to a saviour

Blue Post pubs are numerous around Soho and its near neighbourhood because this was once hunting country-Soho being the hunting cry meaning the opposite of Tallyho - and blue posts marked the sporting boundaries.

Until the Victorian Age women rarely frequented pubs. As brewers often the ones who brewed the beer and ran the pub. Today pub licensing is dealt with at a Brewster Sessions of the local court.

It was in the middle of the last century that pubs became the haunts of streetwalkers and not respectable places for any woman of worth. About this time pubs spawned the musical entertainments which grew into the fully-fledged music halls - just as the pub with a gallery saw the beginnings of theatre in the Elizabethan period.

Before the Second World War women would usually only go to the pub with a male companion and men-only bars and gentlemen's smoke rooms became very common. The social changes leading to sexual liberation showed up after the war.

Many pubs acquired ladies' bars and, as women became more economically liberated in the Sixties and Seventies, they began to go to the pub, male companion or no.

The recent attentions of the anti-alcohol lobby seem likely to lead to a tightening of regulations like those governing drinking and driving which threatened to hit country pubs seriously. Customers adapted: in motorized groups people take it in turns to drive and not drink. This has led to a trend whereby the sales of non-alcoholic drinks are rising, especially around the Christmas period.

The perils to drink sales are many and legion. Which is where pub food comes in. Brewers have turned to food as if to a saviour. Few bars these days do not have it on offer. The idea of adding a restaurant element is hardly new and the chop house and steak bar are familiar enough. What has emerged is the notion of the theme pub - targeting a variety of concepts at customer groups such as the family or the affluent young. In these pub food sales can now account for half the total turnover.

A couple of years ago the first rash of theme pubs were making the running, propelled not a little by a design team called Lubin and Myers. Alan Lubin and Roger Myers sound like the originators of popular musicals: certainly their productions have had more than a touch of showbiz about them.

Peppermint Park in London was one of their earlier creations. They describe it as a theme restaurant and it was one of the first cocktail bars in

London to serve up food American-style. They think they did a lot to make Pina Colada a household name.

The theme restaurant - Coconut Grove was another Lubin and Myers creation, as was Carlos 'n' John's singles bar with its Mexican food - proved to be the precursor of the theme pub. Myers and Lubin linked with Courage, the brewing arm of Imperial Group, and after converting Courage's Bird in Hand pub in Hampstead High Street to a Parisian-style brasserie with cocktail bar and French food they turned their attention to the old Boileau Arms in Barnes, near Hammersmith Bridge.

This became The Old Rangoon, kitted out in colonial plantation style complete with cane furnishings, languid Casablanca fans, a restaurant, a bar dispensing not only cocktails but cask-conditioned ale, afternoon teas, a garden with duckpond and ducks and an undercover youngsters' games room. It was all crowned by a dovecot.

A pub's clientele can often prove restively suspicious

Two years on, nobody has seen the flight of doves recently, but the Old Rangoon is busy, and Imperial, now with an in-house design team, are still creating individually designed restaurants as part of pubs through their Piers House restaurants vehicle.

But they have also taken a route

which many other brewers are following - creating concepts which can be replicated. In two years Imperial have created a score of Harvesters with a farmhouse theme and fun with Worzel Gummidge for the children. Their Sullivan's American-style cocktail bars with typical American food are aimed at the affluent young.

Meanwhile, Lubin and Meyers theme pubs are still being opened, including a Chas and Dave's with lots of piano-backed entertainment in a jellied eels, pie and mash atmosphere, and the Brighton Rock Saloon, which dispenses burgers with beer on the south coast.

Lubin and Myers severed their connection with Imperial and now have a link with Peter Langan of Langan's Brasserie to develop Langan bars and grills. Roger Myers says: "The one-off theme pub, where the key factors are great attention to detail and getting bright young management and similar staff, is a high-risk business compared with the normal pub. You are taking a concept into an unknown area. So you are looking for a higher return on your capital investment." Lubin and Myers' own company, Theme Holdings made £300,000 profits in the first year.

When new concepts are launched, say Imperial, a pub's former clientele can prove restively suspicious but the pub finishes up with more people coming in. While refurbishing a normal pub might cost £100,000 a concept conversion is likely to produce a bill double that. Imperial spent over £50 million on its pub outlets last year

and expects to lay out almost as much this year.

Some brewers, like Scottish & Newcastle in the North East, have doubts about theme pubs, fearing they may go out of fashion before sufficient return has been made. Whitbread's theme pubs range from one in Merthyr Tydfil full of associations with the MASH television series to another in Sheffield combining pub appeal with that of an Italian restaurant. Whitbread has also installed mini-breweries in just under a dozen of its pubs to enhance the appeal of traditional outlets.

Some 70 British pubs now brew their own beer on the premises, the furthest development of the move started by the Campaign for Real Ale to bring cask-conditioned ale back into beer drinking.

Real ale was a winner for most of the smaller and regional brewers, among them being Fuller and Young in the London area, Brakspear out at Henley, Ruddells in the Midlands, Theakston in Yorkshire, Adnam at Southwold and Eldridge Pope at Dorchester whose Thomas Hardy ale still matures many a year in bottle.

A key factor which could make a call at the pub more of a social occasion is the Government's likely relaxing of licensing regulations in England and Wales in line with Scottish practice.

All in all, there seems no need yet to lament with Hilaire Belloc: "When you have lost your inns down your empty selves for you will have lost the last of England." Old pubs never die it seems. They merely change their spots.

DOWN THE HATCH

Drinkers prefer to take it home

Britons drank 11.9 pints of alcohol per head in 1983, the latest year for which such statistics are available. This is well down from the 13.2 pints in 1979, something of a peak year for drinking of all kinds.

The beer market survey* mounted by Public Attitude Surveys Research (PAS) shows that men are drinking less. The 1979 peak of 12.5 pints a week fell steadily to 11.4 pints in 1983.

The United Kingdom is 21st in the international league table for alcohol consumption. Countries like France, Portugal and East Germany, which head the table in that order, drink more than twice as much alcohol.

The UK is the fourth largest beer producer after the United States, West Germany and Russia. In beer drinking the UK is eighth in the international league table, 25th in wine drinking, and 20th for spirit drinking.

Pure alcohol consumption per head by 1990 could be in the region of 14 pints a year in the UK, it is suggested in a new study** of the drinks market by Staniland Hall, the business forecasters. The survey suggests that during the present decade beer will slip from 59 per cent of the drinks market to 49 per cent by 1990, wine will rise from 14 per cent to 22 per cent, spirits will stay at 24 per cent and cider will rise from 3 per cent to 5 per cent.

The take-home sector accounted for rather more than 14 per cent of the beer market last year compared with less than half of that 10 years before. While pub and club languished the take-home market in England and Wales grew in volume by 9.7 per cent after a growth in 1983 of 6.4 per cent, according to a study commissioned by the take-home division of Whitbread, one of the big six brewers.

There have been increasing worries in the trade over reports of pub profits declining and licensees pulling out more frequently. Brewers have been spending heavily to make their houses more attractive. In the years 1982 to 1984 brewers spent £1.4 billion on their retailing outlets, mostly pubs, which was 78 per cent of all their capital investment. Annual spending on retailing outlets is expected to run from £662 million this year, to £679 million in 1986 and £680 million the following year.

*Beer Market Surveys: Public Attitude Surveys Research, PO Box 91, Rye Park House, London Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1EP. Prices on application.

**UK Market for Beer, Wines and Spirits to 1990: Staniland Hall Associates, 42 Colebrook Row, London N1 8AF. £125.

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South of the border, where crime and anarchy pay

Mexico's image as a haven for gunrunners and bandits has been reinforced by media coverage of this year's riots. John Carlin ventures across the Rio Grande

When he's got nowhere to hide and no one to turn to, when the sheriff and his men are hot on his tracks, the North American outlaw's instinct is to run south to Mexico.

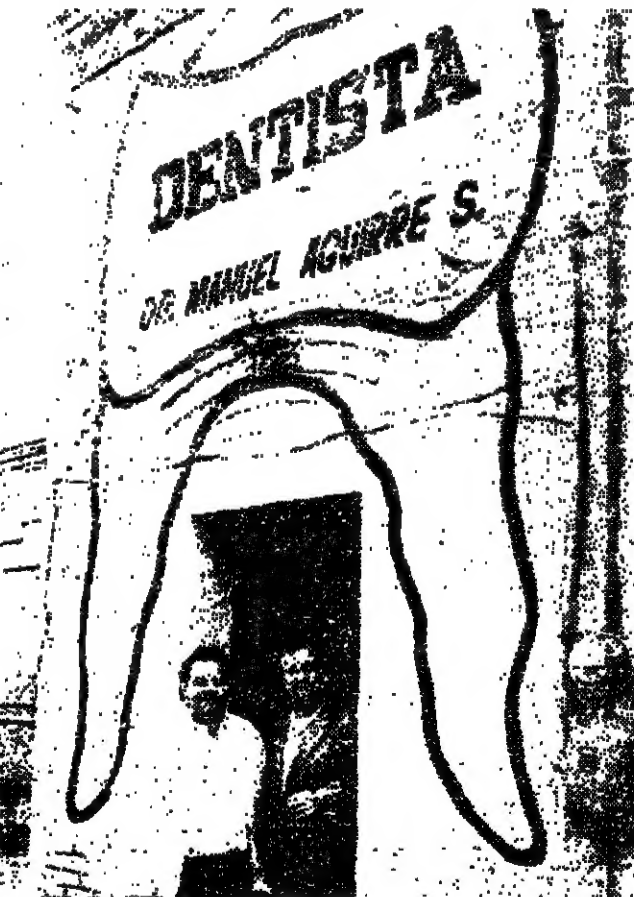
Hollywood films, best-selling novels, popular songs and US television news reports have fixed Mexico in the American consciousness as a lawless place where anarchy reigns and only the roughest, meanest and most devious can survive.

The American television networks, which had tended largely to ignore events in Mexico, have been providing blanket coverage because of the booming Mexico drug trade. Dollars started pouring in as America's addicts became daily greedier and more numerous.

The Mexican police have apparently cashed in, turning a blind eye or actually helping out, as international drug gangs load their cargoes on to small planes in remote mountain airstrips.

Pay-offs in the drug trade, they have found, are so much easier and easier to come by than in the extortion from traffic offences, bank robberies, car smuggling from the US and other traditional sources of income.

After the kidnapping and brutal murder of an American drug enforcement agent apparently with the collusion of Mexican police - Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, declared things in Mexico had



Stopping the rot: dentistry in Piedras Negras

gone "beyond the levels of tolerance". Reporters duly flooded the US media with exposés on police nastiness and government corruption.

It made officials in Mexico seethe, with Mr Shultz's opposite number, Sr Bernardo Sepulveda, declaiming against "an unjust, lamentable and offensive campaign abroad of slander" against Mexico.

What particularly irked the nationalists in the Mexican government was that the boundary had been crossed between myth and reality, between Hollywood and tele-

vision news views of Mexican "unspeakables". More disturbing to the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) - which has dominated every sphere of Mexican political life for 56 years - was that American television had recorded anti-government riots, police firing into crowds of protesters and the burning of a town hall. And all this, what is more, in a town called Piedras Negras, right on the southern bank of the Rio Grande.

Revolution, the American viewer has been led to conclude, is only just around the corner.

In Eagle Pass, Texas, however, people ought to know better. Their small town is joined by a bridge to Piedras Negras, which has a population of 120,000. Eagle Pass, which has 21,000 people, looks like an affluent suburb of the sprawling, shabby Mexican town.

Virtually everyone in Eagle Pass is of Mexican descent and has family in Piedras Negras. Access across the border has always been uncomplicated. For years people have gone back and forth across the bridge to do their shopping, to have lunch, to visit a relative. But that has changed since the people of Eagle Pass heard the sound of gunfire across the border, saw Piedras Negras town hall ablaze and, most alarming, looked on as hundreds of protesters fled across the international bridge, pursued by gun-waving Mexican police.

The US customs officials now search your car for drugs with stone-faced efficiency. On the Mexican side, jokes, and conspiratorial winks are exchanged as the customs officer weighs up the value of the your colour television set and bargains for his bribe.

Emerging out of Eagle Pass customs, the road suddenly becomes wide, white-lined and impeccably paved. Mexico is immediately left far behind. Half a mile ahead, a large bright yellow "M" at the top of a tall pole welcomes you to civilization. You enter McDonalds and the transformation is complete. Three men in straw cowboy hats shading swarthy, unmistakably Mexican, faces sit at a bright green plastic table on a canteen quarter-pounders and fries and drinking strawberry milk shakes.

The few non-Mexican Americans in town, the "Yankees" as they call themselves, all seem to agree that in business and the professions Eagle Pass residents with names like Martinez, Flores and Garza are as honest

and as efficient as anywhere in the United States. Culturally, too, first and second generation Mexicans have made the switch. For example, unlike those in Piedras Negras, women in Eagle Pass are liberated and macho-abhorring, refusing to look on husbands' adulterous peccadilloes with indulgence.

Such is the Mexican-American's rejection of the one-party political system they see as the cause of all that is rotten in Mexico that, according to one opposition leader in Piedras Negras, a lot of people had come across the border to take part in anti-PRI demonstrations. Sr Saul Flores, who was jailed for a month after the riots, says, "I, having gone to live in the US, Mexican-Americans have become retrospectively appalled at the state of things in Mexico."

A radio station in Eagle Pass, which broadcasts in English and Spanish, has been a perpetual irritant to the authorities in Piedras Negras, where all radio stations and newspapers are under strict control of the

authorities. Eagle Pass radio thrived on reports of police violence and local government corruption in Piedras Negras.

The news director of Eagle Pass radio, a Christian Fundamentalist called Mr Dean Cary, says he has received death threats from across the border.

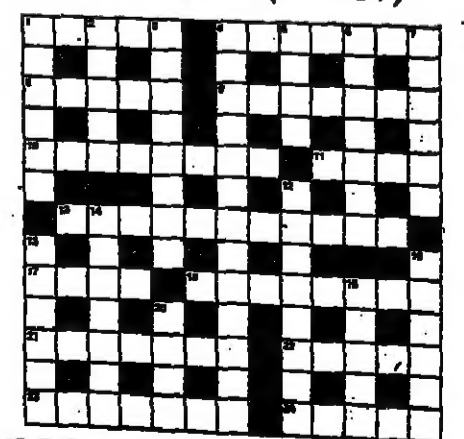
Government officers in Eagle Pass have dossiers on the criminal records of various Piedras Negras officials. A file on a former police chief shows that he lost his licence in a traffic jam, got out of his car, ordered the man ahead to move out of the way and, when he refused to do so, shot him through the head with his .45 pistol. The police chief was neither arrested nor fired, but simply moved to another part of the country.

Alerted to such unsavoury details by news reports, American tourists have become increasingly reluctant to take holidays in Mexico. But the country has always seemed this way, with corruption rife and the legal system, as an old Mexican saying has it, there to be violated.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 737)

ACROSS
1 Abyss (5)
4 Ceremonial robes (7)
8 Smell (5)
9 Torture whip (7)
10 Secretly (8)
11 Therefore (4)
13 Hypericum (2,5,4)
17 Seem (4)
18 For now (8)
21 Take advantage of (7)
22 Lead (5)
23 Concisely (7)
24 Bird perch (5)

DOWN
1 Fussy (6)
2 Dodge (5)
3 20-mile race (8)
4 Brilliantly (13)
5 Foolish person (4)
6 Frowler (7)
7 Loath (6)



12 Deftly (8)
14 Cavalry soldier (7)
15 Customer (6)
16 Intensely heated (3,3)
19 Boite state (5)
20 Skin opening (4)

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MONDAY PAGE

Fingers point to frozen assets

Fish fingers appeared in Britain 30 years ago this week and helped to launch the frozen food revolution. **Torin Douglas reports**

In the history books, September, 1955 will always go down as the month in which commercial television arrived in Britain. It also saw the birth of another institution which has had a fundamental impact on social and commercial life – the quick-frozen fish finger.

This week, Birds Eye, the company which introduced the fish finger to a largely fridgesless Britain, is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the product which spearheaded the frozen food revolution in this country.

On September 3, 1955 it announced the launch of a new, delicious way to buy fish, which takes the hazard out of buying and the time, trouble and smell out of preparing one of our favourite foods. The first fish fingers reached the shops three days later, exactly a fortnight before the first night of Independent Television – the medium which was to play a major part in the promotion not just of fish fingers but of frozen food as a whole.

The fish finger was a triumph of marketing that not only encouraged children to eat fish, but helped persuade their parents to buy fridges, paving the way for today's freezer-orientated society in which we spend almost £2,000 million a year on frozen foods. Without the fish finger, Birds Eye

executives believe, the frozen food business would have foundered, as it did in every other European country at that time.

Before the fish finger, frozen foods had been luxury items, says Ken Webb, general sales manager of Birds Eye in 1955, later to become marketing director and, subsequently, chairman.

"We put a statement on the packet when fish fingers were launched, saying you didn't need a fridge for them. If we hadn't, no one would have bought them – only 2 or 3 per cent of homes had a fridge."

Thirty years on, with fridges in 96 per cent of homes and freezers in 70 per cent – and despite competition from an enormous range of frozen foods – fish fingers are selling in greater quantities than ever. This year we will eat more than 1½ billion, worth £95 million at retail price, of which Birds Eye's share is 50 per cent.

This is more than 10 per cent of the country's total fish consumption, and the importance of the fish finger in the economic life of the nation was officially recognized in 1962, when it became the first manufactured frozen food to be listed in the Retail Price Index.

It is not just Birds Eye executive who sing the product's praises. "They are an



almost perfect product," says marketing development consultant Peter Kraushar.

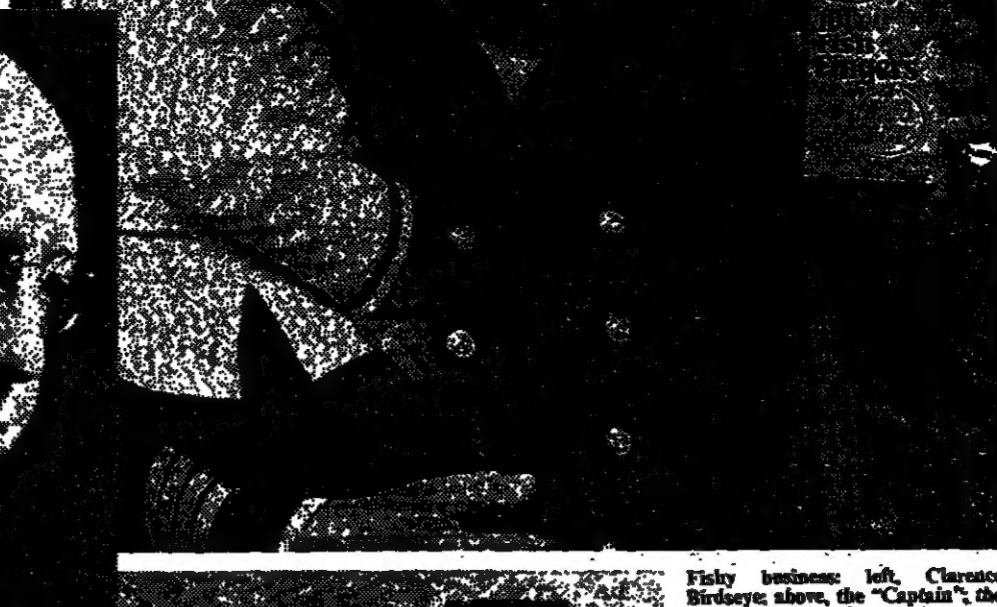
Style authority Peter York, discoverer of the Sloane Ranger, is another fan. "They are a balanced meal and a nice way of inducing the nation to eat fish – and we now know that fish, unlike red meat, is good for us. They have everything. They look nice, only contain 50 calories a finger, allow portion control in the home and are easy for eaters with a low attention span, such as children."

The frozen food revolution had its origins at the end of the First World War. An American biologist, Clarence Birdseye, discovered while on a hunting expedition in the Arctic region of Canada that fish and game which had frozen rapidly still tasted fresh months later. His resulting experiments showed that it was possible mechanically to freeze food so rapidly that there was no damage to its cellular structure.

In the late 1920s, he patented the Birdseye Plate. Froster and his first frozen food went on sale in Massachusetts in March 1930. Soon he had joined the massive General Foods Corporation, which was to expand the business throughout the world under a slightly altered brand name – Birds Eye. General Foods sold the European rights to the name and the freezing technique to Unilever, which still owns the UK company, now called Birds Eye Wall's.

It was not until after the war that frozen foods began to trickle on to the market in Europe and they were not a success. "Frozen foods were a disaster in Europe in the late 1940s and 1950s," says Len Heath, who wrote the early Birds Eye TV commercials before becoming the company's advertising manager in the 1960s. "Birds Eye in the UK was the only success and it was all down to the then marketing director James Parratt."

Parratt moved to Birds Eye from Unilever's soaps company in 1953 and brought aggressive marketing techniques to bear on the problem. In particular, he saw that new products would be needed if frozen food was to catch the public's imagination and on a visit to the United States he discovered the line he was looking for – oblong pieces



Fishy business: left, Clarence Birdseye; above, the "Captain", the 1955 pack and modern version

NET GAINS	
Increases in fish finger production	
1955	500 tonnes
1960	12,000 tonnes
1970	30,000 tonnes
1980	35,000 tonnes
1985	41,500 tonnes

of boneless fish, coated in breadcrumbs. They were called "fish sticks".

"We didn't like the word 'sticks' very much – it was too harsh a description," says Webb, who had moved across with Parratt from the soaps division. "We drew up a list of alternatives and tested them on our head office staff. 'Fish fingers' came out well ahead."

"Nevertheless, we were doubtful whether people would feel comfortable asking for 'fishers', so we put them on sale for a month in one shop in a village near Maidstone. There were no problems at all. They were launched nationally in 1955 at the price of 1/8d for six."

It was an instant success – we couldn't produce enough for the first six months," says Webb. Parratt was responsible for another crucial marketing initiative, without which the fish finger might never have caught on. Birds Eye announced it would not open new accounts with retailers unless they had an open-top freezer cabinet, as opposed to the traditional ice-cream refrigerator with a lid.

"When we started, few retailers had refrigerators and there was a great lack of knowledge about frozen foods," Webb recalls. "I personally went to Fortnum and Mason to sell fish fingers and they said they couldn't take them. They had only one freezer and that was full of frozen vegetables and they said they could not put fish in the same cabinet."

Only 11,000 shops in Britain in 1954 stocked frozen food. Four years later, the figure was 40,000 and in a year Birds Eye opened well over 20,000 new accounts with retailers.

"The importance of fish fingers was that they were the

Reagan puts courts under Moral siege

Unless some old men cling on to their jobs for several more years, the United States Supreme Court could well reverse its historic Roe v. Wade decision of 1973, which overnight wiped out the entire jumble of laws that curtailed or banned abortion in America.

The federal judiciary is under ideological siege from President Reagan. He is staunchly anti-abortion and the one supreme court judge he has been able to appoint since he came to power – Sandra Day O'Connor – is firmly like-minded.

Historically, the Supreme Court is extremely reluctant to change its mind, or the principle that courts should honour decisions of earlier courts. But abortion is an extraordinary subject. It is a fundamental issue of the New Right, which has powerful political allies.

Few presidents have ever attempted the pressure that Mr Reagan is now applying to the Supreme Court on the issue of abortion. The Reagan Administration took the surprising step on July 14 of directly asking the court to change its mind, arguing that the 1973 decision was so sweeping that states were prevented from enacting their own abortion laws.

In a move personally approved by the President, the Justice Department filed a friend-of-the-court brief in two cases involving challenges to state anti-abortion laws in Pennsylvania and Illinois. The Administration said the Roe v. Wade decision had "fatal flaws". Lower courts had misinterpreted the ruling as granting "an unfettered right to an abortion" without regard to the Government's legitimate interest in maternal health and the unborn.

That was the first time since 1954 that any administration had sought a complete reversal by the Supreme Court of a fundamental constitutional issue. The last such request was for the banning of racial segregation in schools.

Mr Reagan's appointment of Sandra Day O'Connor has presumably shifted the balance of the Supreme Court to six to three in favour of legalizing abortion. She was initially a little coy about declaring herself and came under siege by the extreme religious right, notably the Rev Jerry Falwell of Moral Majority – until she

Abortion is a fundamental issue of the New Right

Even if the court could not bear to reverse its original decision, it might re-examine the earlier opinion about future viability to take account of new medical technology. The 1973 decision gave a woman full rights to an abortion in the first three months of pregnancy. States have more rights to regulate abortion in the second three months, but only to protect the woman's health. In the last three months states have the option of banning abortion.

Despite vigorous denials by the Justice Department, President Reagan is deliberately making a deep imprint on the ideological complexion of federal court judges. By the time he leaves the White House it is likely that more than half the sitting federal judges will be Reagan appointees.

Potential federal judges are screened by officials of the Justice Department. Many have said privately that they were asked outright for their views on abortion, when interviewed by officials of the Justice Department. Some who failed to be appointed blamed their views on abortion. The available evidence supports their contention. It is a case of Mr Reagan's fierce determination to reverse Roe v. Wade.

Christopher Thomas

Skipper at the helm

Fish fingers have always been perceived as a children's product, though children only account for half their total consumption, according to Birds Eye's research. One reason for the impression is that the company has consistently featured children in its advertising.

"Children have always been the focus of the advertising – but that is just because it was the easiest way of showing what the product was about," says Len Heath, who wrote many of the early Birds Eye television commercials at the Lintas advertising agency in the 1950s, before becoming Birds Eye's advertising manager.

"People recognized that fish was good for children, but they found it hard to make them eat it because of the bones and the skin and the smell. Here at last was a nourishing product which children liked – so that's what we put across. The strategy hasn't changed much since."

Since 1967, the personification of the fish finger has been Captain Birds Eye, one of advertising's most enduring and best-known characters. A recent Gallup poll put him second only to Captain Cook among the country's best-known "captains" and his fame is now spreading to Europe.

Such has been the impact of Captain Birds Eye that last year the company decided to make greater use of the property by consolidating all its coated fish products under the umbrella brand of "The Captain's Table". A picture of Captain Birds Eye (in reality, actor John Hewer) is now featured on sundry fish products.

"Captain Birds Eye is such a strong property that it made sense to try to harness him for a

wider range of products," says Birds Eye's marketing director Eric Walsh.

Since 1967, Birds Eye has spent £19 million at today's prices transmitting the Captain Birds Eye commercials. There have been 35 versions, but the captain is always featured on his ship with boards of hungry children, singing well-known songs with suitably altered lyrics.

After two years of stylized studio sets, Birds Eye and its agency, Lintas, have this year reverted to everyone's idea of an exotic treasure island. With production budgets running into six figures, the advertisements will be shown for the next two or three years.

Captain Birds Eye's appearances have not been unbroken since 1967, however. In 1971, the company decided to kill him off and inserted the following notice in *The Times*:

BIRDS EYE, CAPTAIN: On June 7th, 1971, after long exposure, life was taken from the frozen fish finger. Captain Birds Eye is now deceased. His body will be cremated and his ashes scattered at sea. The company regrets the loss of this national hero of the frozen food industry.

Three years later, as inflation and the Cod War combined to increase prices by 27 per cent in eight months, and the fish fingers market declined by a fifth (and as competitors brought in rival brands), it was decided that Captain Birds Eye must be recalled. The following notice appeared in *The Times* on July 22nd 1974:

BIRDS EYE, CAPTAIN: Now returned to life, Captain Birds Eye is once again the national hero of the frozen food industry. He is now the most popular character in the frozen food industry. He is now the most popular character in the frozen food industry. He is now the most popular character in the frozen food industry.

Her passionate battle with his hobby

Few marriages come to a halt after the declaration: "You must choose between me or her." Husbands, pragmatically, if doubtfully, invariably decide to consign "her" to oblivion and remain with the bookshelves they have put up, the quince trees they have pruned and the woman who has always put their supper on the table.

It is that other wily declaration, "It's either me or it," that can faithfully finalise matters, whether the "it" be home-brewing, book-collecting or backgammon.

I was jolted into this rather bitter way of thinking by a letter in *The Spectator* by Mr Charles Scott-Goddard, whose fiancée took against his subscription to that stylish journal. With the result that Mr Scott-Goddard is still a *Spectator* reader but his fiancée is no longer his fiancée.

Another Woman, it seems, is easily dispatched but to challenge Another Interest is to die with death. This is inconvenient since Another Woman (usually scheduled to cause the least possible disruption to family life) is not hard to accommodate, whereas Another Interest bites into what every agony aunt agrees is essential to marital harmony, namely, "I do not know." Mr Scott-Goddard but my guess is that he doesn't merely read *The Spectator* but spends great chunks of the week filling in its crossword and entering its competition;

joining its wine club and drafting advertisements for its Book Wanted column. And all this while his erstwhile fiancée is being eaten alive by boredom, desperate for a kind word.

Men, when something (seldom someone) takes their fancy become obsessive. The collector of oriental art not only visits museums, attends auctions, brings the car to a screeching stop whenever he sees an antique shop, but frames and reframes, arranges and rearranges his treasures until his wife is reduced to a sullen wretch.

The bedside table of the compulsive fisherman is topped with piles of books about bait, making stimulating night-time discussion of *The Times* leader or the new Kingsley Amis impossible. There is no one so lonely as the woman married to a man in hot pursuit of a love affair with a fish, a yacht or a lacquered screen.

Many women – and I can never decide whether they are very wise or extremely foolish – decide to play along with the Other Interest. Thus the wife of a Sunday seafarer sets sail too, a pitiful figure, chilled to her queasy bones, her complexion the shade and texture of Crosse & Blackwell's lentil soup, insisting that she is loving every nauseous minute.

No doubt, her husband will cling to her like the ivy which wraps itself around the oak but



PENNY PERRICK

to some of us, watching the seasick little figure dodging the boom and clawing frantically at ropes, she is paying too high a price for husbandly devotion.

In any case, if one has taken against the Other Interest, one's aim is to see it vanquished, not encouraged by one's own lying enthusiasm. My own preferred tactic is the Counter Interest: an all-consuming hobby of one's own that is so demanding that one hardly has the time to notice whether someone else is in the next armchair or catching marlin off Key Largo.

Of all Counter-Interests, patchwork is the most perfect. It is pervasive; templates and the

entire contents of Liberty's fabric department cover every surface. It is intrusive; social life is disrupted by lectures on log-cabin toys, classes and summer schools. It appears unselfish and virtuous: keep at it and before long you will have provided Christmas presents for relatives and heirlooms for young children. Best of all, the effect of all this industry is so maddening that before long the man with Another Interest is ready to call a truce on the lines of "If you'll just put away all those bits and pieces, I'll never put my maggot-tin in the fridge again."

This advice has probably come too late for the girl who took against *The Spectator*. If only someone had advised her to take up the *New Statesman*, to have read bits of it aloud, to have lingered suspiciously over its Personal Columns, she might yet have become Mrs Scott-Goddard.

Authorized versions

I am rather puzzled by an advertisement for Ariel Books, which proclaims: "Malcolm Lowry – A hopeless drunk or a literary genius? Discover the facts." I had always supposed him to be both. This method lends itself to some exciting possibilities, though. "Jane Austen: Provincial spinster or incomparable novelist?" "Jeffrey Archer: Failed politician or born storyteller?" I await the rest of Ariel's campaigns with interest.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Foreign bodies

More slamming of doors at the Monday Club over its grizzly "regeneration" policy for black people. The latest to quit the oddball annex of the Conservative Party are the chairman of two of the club's committees, Rear-Admiral Wemyss (defence) and the Earl of Kimberley (foreign affairs). Wemyss told me: "I was approached after I was one of those bath-chair admirals talking about the Falklands war. Like an idiot I joined, but I didn't take to their politics. It was all to the right of Ghengis Khan. I didn't like all the chat about 'nig-nogs' that's absolute nastiness to me. I also thought the student element got out of hand. It's also nice to get paid for what one writes and there was not a penny piece in that lot." Lord Kimberley was more forthright: "The attitude towards what they call 'foreigners' was not right. It's no good giving them a lot of cash and sending them back to Bogga-Bogga or what have you. Won't work. These people live here now." My source reveals that the defections have left the membership, 1,200 a few years ago, worryingly low, down to 894. Club secretary Cedric Gunnyer was not very courteous when I called him: he put the phone down.

Write-wrong

Haringey Council's special projects group needs a tutor. Boy, does it need a tutor: look at the advertisement for the job appearing on noticeboards. "COMMUNITY TUTOR. WANTED. It begins, 'Resources', especially if 'relatively new form', need 'advice-help'. An 'individual' is needed for its 'unique training project'. But 'its not essential to hold a teaching qualification or to have experience as a class tutor'. A council spokesman assures me a corrected version is being sent out immediately.

After 3D specs, the ICA cinema in the Mall is now issuing individual hand mirrors to audiences in which to watch David Lynch's four-minute short, *Alphabet*. The latest in alienation technique? Not really: staff discovered the film print was back to front.

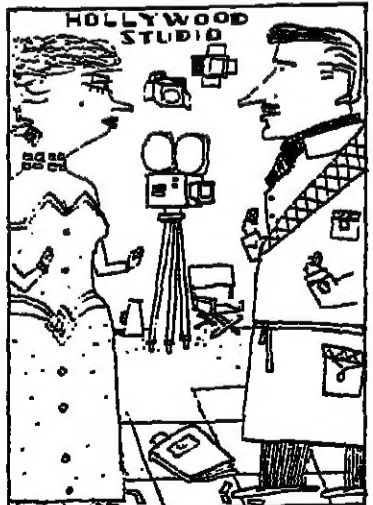
Off course

Students at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, must have been eating like lords. On a turnover last year of about £500,000, the college's kitchen and butchery account, I learn, somehow managed to make a £57,000 loss. An internal inquiry has been quietly conducted by the college with the help of its auditors. The Master's deputy, Thomas Faber, tells me it "found no evidence of positive dishonesty and nothing to justify proceedings or police investigations." It did, however, find that financial controls were inadequate and that too much money had been spent on raw materials. For Chris Taylor, the bursar, the affair has evidently proved the final straw. He is to take a year's sabbatical owed to him and will then seek a new job. He was away when I tried to make contact, but Dr Faber said: "Chris Taylor has held the position for a good many years and has served the college loyally and efficiently."

Old alliance

In my Silly Season quest for stories about obscurities who became famous, it would be churlish to deny a bottle of bubbly for a kiss-and-tell revelation about David Owen, George Burne, of Woldingham, Surrey, who says Owen was his big at Bradford - "and a very good one. In the house play, *The Housemaster*, he was given the part of Bimbo, a small girl, and for the best part of a week I, as Housemaster, was kissed every evening by the future leader of the SDP." Burne adds: "I would like to record that I am now a keen Conservative."

BARRY FANTONI



Shuttle

As South Africa continues to self-destruct, the president of the African National Congress, Oliver Tambo, was keeping an unusually low profile last week. Unbeknown to the world's press, he flew into London for four days. ANC spokesman Solly Smith says the "purely private" visit was to allow the 65-year-old black leader a routine medical check-up. Smith insists that Tambo will return to Britain later this month, as planned, for the Labour conference - despite the question mark over who will foot his air fare. "The money is coming," Smith says confidently.

PHS

Ballots: why pick on the unions?

by Ron Todd

Trade union democracy was an issue in the last two general elections and has been the subject of several pieces of legislation. It will figure at the Trades Union Congress at Blackpool today.

Two important questions need to be asked: has the debate so far been fair and well-informed, and have the motives of those shaping and framing the issue for legislation been entirely beyond reproach?

If there is a genuine concern to extend individual freedom and ensure that powerful organizations are representative and accountable - and that is a strong concern of mine - then you cannot begin and end with trade unions. I believe that we have been singled out for special treatment while other, more powerful and far less accountable bodies have been left untouched.

The 1984 Trade Union Act says that trade unions shall not be allowed to hold any indirect election for their executive officers. Yet the government which has introduced that measure, and the political party which constitutes the government, do not apply that principle to their own affairs.

The Conservative Party has about 1.5 million members - roughly the same, as it happens, as the Transport and General Workers' Union. But only 277 had a direct vote in Mrs Thatcher's election as party leader and none at all in the election of the party chairman, deputy chairman, treasurer, and other senior officials.

Yet in the recent election of a TGWU general secretary each and every one of our

members was entitled to vote, and well over 600,000 actually did so. Which process is the more democratic?

A similar argument applies to the political fund ballots required by the 1984 Trade Union Act. There is no law requiring companies to consult their shareholders about donations to the Conservative Party. In fact there are no rules at all governing what they can and cannot spend shareholders' money on.

Newspapers constantly publish stories about trade union leaders exercising autocratic powers, but they tell us little about their proprietors and their influence over what appears in their columns. Members of the House of Lords wield considerable power through patronage or patronage, not election.

Similar considerations apply to companies which resolutely oppose any suggestion of bringing a little democracy to their endeavours. The EEC has come up with a proposal that workers in multinational companies should have some rights to information about the plans, activities and performance of the parent companies; another recommends various forms of worker participation, including worker-directors.

Mrs Thatcher's government and the CBI regard these proposals as gross interference in the freedom to operate a business. Some

multi-nationals with plants in Britain are spending large sums in campaigning against the proposals in Brussels.

To return to trade union ballots, I agree that at times they are necessary, but that will be determined by the constitution of the individual unions. I hope that live democracy at mass meetings will not be replaced by isolated individuals balancing ballot forms on their kitchen tables with one eye on dinner and the other on the telly. Democracy means much more than that. I hope we can keep the dead hand of the law out of our decision-making, and keep the live hands mass democracy in the air, whether it be for a "yes" or a "no" vote.

In the TGWU we are actively extending democracy. We are expanding our education and training services and now have as many as 16,000 shopfloor and office representatives on some form of course each year at a cost of well over £500,000. The purpose is to allow them to represent members effectively at the most direct and democratic level. We continue to devote power down to the shopfloor whenever and however we can. The union is still run, and run effectively, by a lay executive council and a lay biennial delegates' conference. Our members do control their union.

The government doesn't want to extend the role of union members but to weaken it. It wants them to talk rather than act, and when they talk it doesn't even pretend to listen.

The author is general secretary of the TGWU.

Denis Herbstein questions the reluctance to cut Pretoria's lifelines

British public opinion has barely debated the rights and wrongs, effectiveness or otherwise, of using economic sanctions to overthrow apartheid. When it has done so, it has often been on the basis of doubtful, or even groundless assumptions.

The popular myth that South Africa's blacks, fearful of losing their jobs, are against sanctions, was exploded in last month's MORI poll in *The Sunday Times*, which found that three of four urban blacks were now in favour. More than half of those questioned felt that violence is not justified in trying to destroy apartheid - possibly indicating that they prefer non-violent methods to armed struggle.

Only a month before, *The Sunday Times* had carried a leader entitled "Say no to sanctions." It described Chief Gunda Buthe, the Zulu leader and the most formidable black voice against sanctions, as being "the most likely man to be prime minister if majority rule ever came." Yet the same paper's poll now indicates that Zulus favour sanctions - and also prefer the jailed nationalist, Nelson Mandela, to their tribal chief.

The veteran human rights parliamentarian Helen Suzman, a favourite with the British media, is also against sanctions. Her Progressive Federal Party, however, is partly financed by Harry Oppenheimer's De Beers mining group, which fears the cutting of economic ties as much as Pretoria does.

South Africa's neighbours would be affected by sanctions. But the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, the sub-continental common market in embryo, said recently that if sanctions accelerated the ending of apartheid, it would be well worth the additional cost. It suggests that if the West is concerned about the effect of sanctions on other countries it should provide assistance to minimise the impact.

King Moshoeshoe of Lesotho, a poor country entirely surrounded by South Africa, tells western countries they should not hold back from sanctions for fear of damaging the black economies of Botswana, which recently suffered a South African commando attack, would not stand in the way. Dr Witness Mangweni, Zimbabwe's foreign minister, has declared that the black states were ready to suffer and that if the West was really interested in punishing South Africa there was nothing to prevent it doing so.

Mozambique's foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano, says that disarming would hit his country badly but it was nevertheless "prepared to make such sacrifices if they in turn brought significant changes in South Africa."

President Botha has warned that sanctions could lead to the expulsion of the million plus foreign workers in South Africa. This is easier said than done. Tens of thousands of Mozambicans have entered the country illegally and work on white farms and in white homes at the cheapest rates. They would be hard to trace and harder to replace.

The 175,000 foreign mine workers



Why the West need not flinch from sanctions

are there because South African blacks don't like the low wages and the bachelor compounds. If they were to replace the foreigners they would be tempted to join the new mineworkers' union - which many Basuto, Mozambicans and other migrant blacks are afraid to do.

The argument switches to Britain. The United Kingdom South Africa Trade Association (UKSAT), amplified by the South African embassy, warns of up to 250,000 more unemployed in this country: about a quarter would be caused by the loss of British exports; the remaining 180,000 would be a spin-off from the ending of metal supplies to Europe.

This latter figure ignores a warning by the Standard Bank of South Africa that an increasing number of countries are now producing the minerals and metals that have been a mainstay of South Africa's exports. It is also well to remember that the US and European countries have strategic stockpiles which could keep them going for several years.

In the last resort, it all depends on where the pressure is applied and by whom. Clearly, there must be a concerted effort by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for alternative loopholes to be plugged. Half of British exports are made up of machinery and transport equipment.

Although ministers say that sanctions do not work, this government did try to stop the British team going to the Moscow Olympics as a protest for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. And the British, indeed international, refusal to recognize the four "independent" South African homelands has helped bring about the collapse of separate development, the cornerstone of apartheid.

There is the oft-cited case of Rhodesia. However, the Bingham Report revealed that the Labour government of Harold Wilson turned a blind eye as Shell and BP contrived to evade the oil embargo. Starved of oil, it is more than likely that Ian Smith's UDI would have collapsed long before Robert Mugabe's military and electoral victories.

There are two widely differing views on the effect of sanctions: that they would have no effect at all, or would cause chaos and revolution. We simply do not know. But Britain, which has been involved in Southern Africa for almost two centuries, has the additional responsibility of showing South African whites that we are serious when denouncing institutionalized racism and convincing the blacks that we hear what they are saying.

Disinvestment as a non-violent weapon against apartheid was an issue long before the Rev Jesse Jackson's campaign after the last US presidential election. Back in 1959, when the African National Congress was a legal (and non-violent) organization, its president, the Nobel peace laureate Chief Albert Luthuli, said that although "the economic boycott of South Africa would entail untold hardship for Africans... if it is a method which shortens the day of bloodshed, the suffering to us will be a price we are willing to pay."

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A Philippine peace offensive on two fronts

Manila A 14-year-old guerrilla, a primitive hill dweller and two women recently became the first recruits of a rehabilitation programme which the government of President Ferdinand Marcos hopes will dent the communists' growing influence in the Philippine countryside. The measure aims to entice rebels of the New People's Army into the towns and villages with offers of rewards and jobs.

The four, who have assisted in anti-insurgency operations since they surrendered four months ago, were the first NPA members to join the programme. "Many others want to but are afraid," the deputy defence minister, Carlos Cajelo, said when he unveiled the new attempt at psychological warfare. "The government must protect them from retribution."

The rewards are similar to those offered to Muslim rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front who have been waging a long secessionist war, mainly on the southern island of Mindanao, which the government claims, have induced 50,000 to lay down their arms and left the movement demoralized.

The government hopes the same formula will work with the NPA

rebels, despite their greater ideological commitment to the overthrow of the "US-Marcos dictatorship". It sees the Maoist-inspired rebellion as far more serious than the MNLF's more limited goal of regional autonomy.

The communist insurgency began in 1969 with 60 men and 35 rifles. Now an estimated 15,000 NPA members are operating in 69 of the 73 provinces. It is to counter this success that the government is now willing to try an entirely new non-military tactic. The rehabilitation programme is concentrated on Mindanao island where more than half of all clashes occur.

But doubts exist about the success of the counterpart programme for former MNLF rebels. MNLF commanders have complained of broken promises, non-existent jobs and development projects for impoverished areas that never materialized.

"Some people made money at our expense. Worse, the wrong people collected millions of pesos intended for returnees," two bitter MNLF commanders said in a letter in Manila's *Bulletin Today* in June. Observers also believe the total figure of MNLF "returnees" is padded by local officials to impress the government and inflated by the

surrender, many times over, of thousands of former rebels who, on each occasion, collect a reward. Other rebels took the money and went straight back to the hills when it ran out.

Mass amnesties for Muslim rebels are usually televised and invariably begin and end with a beaming Marcos embracing his former foe and accepting the symbolic surrender of their arms. No similar show of reconciliation has been offered to captured communist leaders - 120 in the last five years, according to Marcos - many of whom remain in indefinite detention.

In May an opposition resolution proposing a general amnesty for members of the outlawed Communist Party and a top-level dialogue "before it is too late" between government and leftist leaders was quickly assigned to a parliamentary committee, where it will almost certainly lie forgotten.

Calls for legalization of the Communist Party have similarly been dismissed. The defence minister, Juan Ponce Enrile, favours the idea but insists that the communists must renounce violence. To legalize the party first and then grant its members a general amnesty as a gesture of good faith is "naïve and utterly divorced from reality", he

says. In any case, the proposal has been rejected as a trap by the communist leaders themselves.

In Washington, Pentagon officials believe the insurgency could reach a "strategic stalemate" within three to five years and that the NPA could have the support of possibly one million people. The intensified NPA activity, they say, raises concern about the long-term stability of the Marcos administration and the security of US military bases.

"We are not about to go under," the acting armed forces chief, General Fidel Ramos, assured businessmen at a recent conference. "We are not another Vietnam." He said changes in the command structure, logistics and training had revived the fighting skills and effectiveness of the 200,000-strong armed forces - long distinguished for their lacklustre performance and human rights violations.

An army-supervised \$80 million civic action programme in Mindanao is the cornerstone of the government's efforts to resuscitate the island's economy. But Jose Diokno, a prominent opposition leader, does not believe that money alone will put paid to the communists. "It is simple justice, doing what is right because it is right," he

Keith Dalton

Anne Sofer

Time to foster common sense

The debate about "transracial fostering" is likely to intensify, not only because of its intrinsic human interest but because it has become symbolic of the larger debate about integration versus separatism that rages in left-wing circles, black and white.

In my own borough of Camden, our new director of social services, Patrick Kodikara, has taken an uncompromising stance: no transracial fostering or adoption, black children to black families only, full stop. This is apparently what the social services committee wanted when they appointed him. There is outrage in the local press, not least because this is the sort of area where transracial adoption used to be the height of progressive fashion.

Not long ago the socially conscious press was full of guilt-inducing articles about the number of black children languishing in orphanages because of the prejudices of the would-be adopters and kind-hearted Labour Party members were rushing out to set the matter right. Anyone who had suggested at that time that it was doing no favour to black children to encourage them to think they could grow up as an integrated part of white society would have been denounced as racist.

In fact it is widely conceded now that the problems were not foreseen and thought through - or rather that the perception of the problems was one-sided. The adoption and fostering agencies spent a lot of time making sure that the white parents would feel comfortable with a black child, but tended to take it for granted that the black child would feel comfortable with white parents (as indeed a great many have - though some have not; hence the problem).

People are chastened and wiser now, and a new common-sense consensus is emerging: place children with same-race parents where possible, but if it is not possible a different-race home is better than an institution, which anyway is likely to be staffed by white social workers. I say this formula is emerging because it is what practically everybody, black and white, radical and moderate, left-wing or not, will say when discussing the matter privately; it seems so obvious. But this has become one of those issues where political rhetoric and common sense have parted company. It is unfortunately the case that too many aspiring left-wing politicians and black activists cannot afford to say publicly that they would ever in any circumstances place a black child in a white home.

The issue is a classic example of the process by which an untenable and extremist idea takes hold. The first stage is that frustration and anger is allowed to develop about an issue which the press - that is, initially, refused to take seriously. The second stage is that authority wakes up, decides to change the policy, appoints special people to carry it out and generally raises expectations. In the third stage, practical difficulties appear, im-

plementation is slow and disillusion sets in.

Then comes the fourth stage: the policy itself is discredited and a process of outbidding and out-flanking starts. All the political dynamic is with the most extreme and apparently unreasonable position: that could possibly be expected, that numbers of powerful people who secretly disagree find it politically inexpedient to do so publicly. Nonsense prevails.

There are two ways to stop this process. First, as little time as possible should be allowed to elapse between stages one and two. Second, great care should be taken that no two not to promote more than can be delivered. In most matters to do with race and social policy we have done the opposite. Governments, national and local, have been slow to recognize the extent of frustration in the black communities: once it has been recognized the remedies, often announced with considerable fanfare, have not had the immediate impact expected.

In fact, on the fostering and adoption issue, many of the original patronizing and insensitive practices were being stopped, and attempts were being made to get more black foster parents, five years ago. But common sense was overtaken by an angry militancy.

No doubt the Sunday tabloid papers will be laying siege to children's homes in the left-wing boroughs, trying to find forlorn black children being kept away from white foster homes. It is also possible that the inquiry into the death of four-year-old Jasmine Beckford, battered and bitten by her stepfather, will have something to say on a matter on which the press will likewise go to town. The dogmatic separatists are preparing themselves for a long-running battle with the media which will do race relations no good at all.

Meanwhile there is another, much larger group of children who stand to lose from the terms in which the debate is being carried on. They are those of mixed race, now numbering hundreds of thousands, for whom the separatist argument means that they have to choose between the two halves of their identity.

A few months ago there was a programme on television about the exiled South African trumpeter Hugh Masakale. Replying to a question, he said that too many young white musicians in South Africa who grow up blinkered to the existence of black African music. It should be part of their own inheritance, he said, just as European and American music was part of his own. It was, in the circumstances, an extraordinarily generous reply, but an appropriate one for a convinced opponent of apartheid. With South Africa dominating all discussion of racial issues at present, it is to be hoped that this spirit will soon overwhelm the separatist impulse in this country as well.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

moreover... Miles Kington

Farewell to the Fringe frenzy

Yes, this is it: positively my final report from the Edinburgh Festival which ended at the weekend. Of course, it hasn't ended for me yet as I am writing this on Friday, and, thanks to the miracles of science, you are reading this on Monday, so I still have one day to go of the mixture of excitement, fatigue, rushing about, collapsing and rushing about again that people call the Edinburgh Festival.

There are 10 shows I still want to see; I can probably fit in four or five of them, as well as perform in two myself, and that is why people become permanently sleepless and tend to doze off during shows they desperately wanted to see, as I did embarrassingly last Sunday. I must remember in future to get a seat at the back when feeling tired, so that the cast can't see you dropping off; there is nothing worse than coming awake and finding a singer staring at you isolated. Sorry.

To be accurate, this is not the Festival I am talking about, but the Fringe. Reviews in the London papers are almost always of the official cultural events and largely ignore the Fringe, a bias which the Fringe can never quite understand. Certainly, our group can never understand why Irving Wardle has twice availed himself of tickets for our show in the past and never yet reviewed us. But if you look at *The Scotsman*, which prints upwards of 30 Fringe reviews every day, you get a truer idea of the way the Fringe outweighs the Festival itself in terms of attendance figures, excitement, and variety.

It could well be that *The Scotsman* reviews might one day be the basis of a short show themselves, as they display a dizzying spectrum of attitudes between love and hate. The good reviews go sensationally overboard; the bad ones are famous for their savagery. This morning's *Scotsman* has a review of a production of *Blithe Spirit* which says: "Coward claims it took him five days to write this play. It took the company five minutes to destroy it."

The saddest story I have heard from this year's Fringe is of a one-woman show which had an audience of only one, a female reviewer. The sad thing was that the reviewer had to leave early.

There are now over 1,000 different shows on the Fringe, a quantity it is hard to visualize.

Having yesterday been shown a Fringe guide for 1966, I find it even harder to visualize. In 1966 there was a grand total of 31 shows in the whole Fringe, and that included one-off things like a late-night appearance by Chris Barber's jazz band, a year in the Jazz Festival, in which there were more groups than there were in the entire Fringe less than 20 years ago. No, there are now more groups in one building, like the Assembly Rooms, than there were in Edinburgh in 1966.

One result is that the Fringe is beginning to become big business. You can't get a footing in the Assembly Rooms and other popular venues unless those in charge think you can pull in the crowds. Groups come back year after year resting on their laurels and Perrier Awards, while small obscure groups find it harder to get a footing, resulting in starting: "It is a depressing experience sitting entirely alone in a theatre watching performers as a company." Or perhaps it means levels: the professional groups charging nearly a fiver for tickets and still selling out, and the Fringe outsiders scuffling, fighting and praying for a *Scotsman* review.

If nothing else, the Fringe is still a great place for talent spotting. I David Hatch, who told me in Fringe in which he hadn't walked spotted 20 groups worth putting on Radio 4, he said. Heaven knows how many he'd seen who weren't.

"Have you seen the Bodgers?" I said. "I thought they were superb." "Spotted them last year, dear Radio 4," he said loftily. "They've had a need to see them again."

Twenty minutes later we were suffering the worst stand-up comedy I've ever heard in my life, the sort that does deserve to be crucified by empty house. I turned round to say something to David Hatch, but he followed him. On to the next show, going. Roll on Monday, and the first proper night's sleep in a fortnight.

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DEFENDING THE NPT WALL

East and West, and those in between, have a common interest in preserving and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) now under review in Geneva. But this is not always as apparent as it might be.

Last week's opening of the quinquennial review conference, seemed to confirm Western suspicions that the Soviet Union sees it as an opportunity for a well-planned exercise in public relations: during which it hopes to put one over on its fellow superpower. By concentrating in its opening message upon the recent Russian declaration of a moratorium on nuclear testing, Mr Gorbachev was at least hoping to ensure that when delegates after delegates rise to complain about the lack of progress on arms control - as they assuredly will - it is the Americans who will stand, to shoulder most of the blame.

It is of course at too cost to themselves that the Russians, having an extensive test programme behind them (more than half the nuclear tests carried out in the world last year were conducted by the Soviet Union), are embarrassing the Americans now. The advance of the November summit, yet to turn the Geneva conference into a battle of words for political advantage would be to misjudge and misuse an event of real importance. It would confirm the expressed view of the non-aligned, that the big powers do not take proliferation seriously.

The NPT is essentially a contract between those who have

nuclear weapons and those who have not. The "have nots" promise not to acquire any, while the "haves" agree to reduce their number and to help the "have nots" develop nuclear power for civil purposes.

This time, as during the previous review conferences of 1975 and 1980, the nuclear powers will be under attack for not fulfilling their side of the bargain (France and China have not even signed the treaty, though the French - and now in effect the Chinese - have promised to abide by its provisions).

It is rather late for the superpowers to respond to the first to this conference anyway. The most they can do is to point to the resumption of arms control negotiations, also in Geneva, earlier this year, and to their forthcoming summit, as signals of their good intent.

But what of the other NPT pledge? Mr Richard Luce the Foreign Office minister of state who spoke to delegates last week, outlined proposals which Britain and several other countries have made to ease the transfer of nuclear technology for civil purposes among the non-nuclear states. Britain itself is also doubling the modest contribution it makes towards helping developing countries with nuclear expertise. This will be a step in the right direction if a distinction is clearly drawn between awarding benefits between those who have signed the treaty and those who have not. It is more inducement to join and, having

joined, to remain that the NPT needs. At present the rewards are less than obvious.

There is an argument for coupling this with a fresh diplomatic offensive to enlist those near-nuclear countries (some nearer than others) like Israel, South Africa, India, Pakistan, Brazil and Argentina. Although four out of every five UN member states belong to the NPT, those remaining include crucial absentees.

There are no grounds for thinking that such an initiative might be successful. But it might help to rekindle enthusiasm for a treaty which was hailed as a diplomatic triumph when it came into force 15 years ago, and has been under siege ever since.

President Kennedy predicted, and has been much quoted ever since, that there would be up to 25 nuclear weapon states in the world long before now. The fact that this has not come about (not overtly anyway) is not perhaps directly attributable to the NPT. But the treaty has codified the politics of nuclear power, imposing a discipline upon those who have not signed it as well as those who have. It has set a standard.

The "have nots" may be justified in rounding on the "haves" at Geneva. But in doing so they should not risk diminishing a treaty which, for all its imperfections, has acquired the status of a supporting wall in the post-war world. East, West and those in the middle, for all their differences, have an interest in its maintenance.

OPEN APPROACH TO LICENSING

There are plenty of reasons, starting with self-interest, for doing away with the liquor licensing laws or at least loosening them. The pockets of semi-monopoly created by the interplay of brewers' tied houses and licensing justices' regard for local need restricts private choice. The monopolies commission went into that in 1969 and thought the criterion of need in the grant of a licence should be dropped.

Another commercial reason for liberalization is the unfair advantage off-licences, clubs, and licensed restaurants and hotels have over public houses from the variety of permitted hours in the present dispensation. Despite this handicap pubs have evolved a lot lately, as our survey on page 8 shows - mostly for the better, especially in their provision of meals.

There is also a job-creation argument of obvious topicality. One turns to the Institute of Economic Affairs new Hobart paper, *Freedom to Drink*, in the expectation of learning the foundation of that claim, only to be disappointed. It is assumed here, as (publicly) by most advocates of liberalization, that the total quantity of drink consumed would not be greatly affected. Yet no conclusion is drawn as to whether the changes that might be expected in the pattern of retailing and dispensing would tend to increase or decrease employment or by how much.

The favourable impact on home and foreign tourists would be "considerable", though "to quantify this effect is not at present possible". A figure of 65,000 new jobs is mentioned, being 5 per cent of the number employed directly or indirectly in the tourist industry. But that is just a guess and it looks like a

high one. Foreign holidaymakers visit us and we visit them not least because things are different. Our liquor laws may be odd but they are hardly oppressive. Anyone prepared to share our weather for a few weeks is unlikely to be put off by our drinking habits.

State regulation of the sale of liquor came in with the Tudor monarchy. As Professor Parry Lewis records in this informative Hobart paper, it was first actuated by concern for the defence of the realm. The youth of that day were exhibiting a preference for indoor games in alehouses over martial arts with bow and arrow. Lechery before archery. Defence of the realm came to the fore again with the nationalization of the public houses of Carlisle in the Great War. But for most of their five centuries the licensing laws have, in intention, had more to do with the avoidance of drunkenness, disorder and debauchery. Today we call it alcohol abuse. It remains, at an estimated economic cost of nearly £2 billion a year and a potent factor in crime, a serious problem inviting social control.

The laws of the land must allow self-restraint they interfere with associated freedoms of more worth. But a particular form of self-restraint may become a legitimate matter for regulation if its effects are gravely injurious to others or incur palpable economic costs. Alcohol abuse fits that description. The relevant question is how it is affected, if at all, by the licensing laws.

Scotland is held up as an example, as in Sunday trading. In 1976 the Scottish licensing laws were relaxed by introducing more flexible permitted hours and readily available extensions. They are now what many would

like the laws in England and Wales to be. There is general satisfaction with the outcome in Scotland. The increase (13 per cent) between 1976 and 1984 in the average weekly amount of alcohol consumed was contributed wholly by women enlarging their lesser share of the total. Convictions for drunkenness have declined. Convictions for driving when drunk have not increased.

This is significant but not conclusive evidence in its bearing on England and Wales. There may be special factors to be allowed for. The English pub of 1985 bears no resemblance to the Scottish drinking dens of ten years earlier. The calmer drinking permitted hours may owe something to economic recession or a softening of Scottish manners. Nor do those criminal statistics warrant a generalization that less restriction causes a reduction of drunkenness, any more than medical statistics correlating high national rates of cirrhosis of the liver with absence of liquor regulation warrant a conclusion that relaxation of the licensing laws in England would cause an epidemic of cirrhosis of the liver.

The Government has shown some interest in relaxation of control in this field. It awaits a full report on the Scottish experience due in the autumn from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. It will put that beside the evidence of encroaching alcoholism. Even though that may be more amenable to the methods of the Treasury than the methods of the Home Office, the Government's caution is justified. It would be good to relax the licensing laws if one could be reasonably sure of no consequent extension of alcohol abuse, but only if.

CHINA'S ECONOMIC REVOLUTION

China's latest foreign trade figures do not make comfortable reading, either for the Chinese leadership or for China's trading partners abroad.

In the course of one year, China has slipped from enjoying a small but satisfactory trade surplus into the ranks of those countries which are living beyond their means. In the first seven months of this year, it registered a deficit of nearly 8,000 million US dollars. The true deficit is probably somewhat greater.

For those who have or planned to have large commercial contracts with China, these figures are disheartening. They conjure up the spectre of China as it was seen a decade ago - a faithless trading partner which concluded agreements far beyond its capacity to pay, and then backed out at the eleventh hour. This time, Chinese officials have been at pains to stress that contracts signed will be honoured. At the same time, they have made it clear that in future imports will be more carefully controlled, with industrial plant taking precedence over consumer goods. So much for the hopes of exporters in Japan and Hong Kong.

But the greater danger posed

by China's trade deficit is to China's open-door trade policy itself. The decline in the country's trading position is bound to be seized on by opponents of economic liberalization - of whom there are many at all levels of the Chinese administration - as evidence that the policies being pursued by the current leadership in Peking are working only to China's disadvantage.

They will point not only to the trade deficit, but also to the 30 per cent fall in China's foreign currency reserves over the past year. They will add to this the six-fold increase in smuggling reported since January, and then they will turn on the vanguard of China's open-door policy, the Special Economic Zones. These, they will say, citing a plethora of recent revelations, have become dens of iniquity attracting unsavoury elements from all over China. In view of this, they will argue - indeed, they are already arguing - that the policy of opening China's economy to the outside world has already gone too far and should be reversed.

It would, however, be unrealistic to place all the blame for China's current difficulties on its open-door policy. It is true that the opening up of China's markets has given many millions

of Chinese an appetite for the foreign consumer goods which has so swelled the import figures. Yet it was not the open-door trade policy as such, but rather China's years of austerity and isolation which made that appetite so insatiable. Nor is it the availability of goods which fosters corruption, but their scarcity. The only remedy is to open the door wider still.

Where China's open-door policy can be faulted is in the way it has been administered. Local officials have been given, or have taken upon themselves, responsibilities they were not equipped for. They have concluded import agreements which went far beyond their area's projected foreign currency earnings, and there was no check on what individual regions were spending. There was insufficient co-ordination of exports, so that neighbouring factories with similar products found themselves competing on the same market and having to reduce their prices accordingly. Untried negotiators have been outmanoeuvred, and criminals have found their way into foreign trade operations. But these are the faults of inexperience. They are not arguments for closing the door.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leading a 'broad church' Tory team

From Sir Kenneth Lewis, MP for Stamford and Spalding (Conservative)

Sir, The Prime Minister returns from her holiday ready for new initiatives and a Cabinet reshuffle. She will have in mind that her Government is suffering from mid-term blues. It happens to every government, but if mid-term blues are not dealt with they can become general election disaster.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has done much for the country and her own Party in her now 10 years as leader and six years as Prime Minister. That the mood of the country is not now so favourable can be temporary. With this Prime Minister there must be hope. But hope depends upon getting the political act together. Of late it has been falling apart. And in great measure that is up to the Prime Minister herself.

The Prime Minister is high-key. Her Government is low-key. People have the impression that little that happens in government is the concern of any Minister other than the Prime Minister. That is what comes across.

The Prime Minister herself can reverse that. There are dangers in creating an image that the Government is a one-woman band. We do not have presidential government in this country.

Margaret Thatcher, in getting in on almost every act of government, brings more criticism onto herself. The buck may stop with her. It should not start with her. During the next two years it will help if Ministers are encouraged to get on with it. Even make their own mistakes. The lady should not involve herself in too many decisions down the line. That way the team will come through.

To get renewed success with the voters the Prime Minister and the Government have to convince people that its qualities and successes are greater than its mistakes and failures. If this means a greater mix of sensitivity going into the determination for realism and change, which is the Government's hallmark, then this can only be achieved by a "broad church" team working with a leader and not just for her.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH LEWIS,
House of Commons,
August 29.

Arrest in S Africa

From Sister Kathleen Bagen and others

Sir, The news (report, August 27) of the detention of Mr Paddy Kearney, the Director of Diakonia, the ecumenical development agency in Durban, has come as a great shock to all those who support the tireless work of that organization to combat the effects of poverty and apartheid. It is, however, only the latest in a long line of attacks on the legitimate work of church organizations in their witness to the suffering of the poor.

Mr Kearney's detention is a reminder that genuine and selfless acts of Christian and humanitarian service based on a commitment to non-violence and opposition to apartheid are increasingly regarded as criminal acts against the state.

The South African Government's refusal to respect the work of voluntary organizations and church bodies towards a peaceful solution can only accelerate the drift into violent confrontation that many have striven to avoid.

In the interest of South Africa and its people we appeal for the urgent release of Mr Kearney and many others in a similar situation.

Yours faithfully,
KATHLEEN BAGEN (Projects Director),
Catholic Fund for Overseas Development,
MARIE BAX, Acting Director,
Christian Aid,
FRANK JUDD, Director,
Oxfam,
Christian Aid,
PO Box No 1, SW9.

Future of Unesco

From Professor J. D. Fage

Sir, I have been giving some thought to your leader of August 15 about Unesco. "Seeing through the dream", I do not doubt that dreamers who think Unesco wonderful may still be found. But I would not think that many such are to be found among the membership of the UK National Commission, which will be among those giving advice to the Government as to whether or not the United Kingdom should stand by its notice of withdrawal. Indeed, they have been critical of many aspects of Unesco's performance since well before Mr M'bow became its director-general.

They will have to make a balanced judgement, measuring the bad against the good (or the better), progress in reform against failure to reform, the advantages to the UK against the disadvantages.

In this context it is possible that your leader writer may be a dreamer of another kind, supposing that our small and not over-rich nation can easily and wantonly step aside from what, with all its faults, is still the single most important international forum for asserting our views, influencing others, and winning friends in the educational, scientific and cultural fields.

If we were to decide to leave Unesco without properly balancing the pros and the cons, might not much of the rest of the world simply dismiss us as "Uncle Sam's Other Island"?

Yours faithfully,
J. D. FAGE,
17 Antrimham Gardens,
Birmingham,
August 24.

Absolutism in a liberal society

From Mr Michael Trend

Sir, It is all too easy for those who engage in any discussion about morality and the conduct of human society to take up positions that appear in the black and white of print to be more rigid and inflexible than their authors - in this case, Paul Johnson (feature, August 22), presenting himself in your pages as a "moral absolutist" and John Vice (August 30), the "relativist" - might care to defend to the death. Indeed, Mr Vice appears from his letter to be almost "absolutist" in his "relativism".

It must seem to many of your readers, however, that this is one of those cases where the sides are not as far apart as they might appear at first glance.

While knowing exactly what Mr Vice means by quoting Jacob Bronowski's observation at Auschwitz that "when people believe they have absolute moral knowledge, this is how they behave," we cannot afford ever to ignore what Mr Johnson warns us of in our own particular case. In what is broadly speaking - in relative terms - a liberal society, and therefore vulnerable, it is surely the danger of purposeless relativism that is the far greater present threat.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TREND,
74 De Beauvoir Road, N1,
August 30.

From Miss Elizabeth Sidney

Sir, Paul Johnson in his present state of mind may find it easier to live in a world which equates the holocaust perpetrated by Hitler, Stalin and Amin with the advanced world's occasional mercy towards murderers, acceptance of abortion in certain circumstances and responsible research using human embryos.

It seems to me that such absolutism is itself the stuff of which most absolute evil is made. Many who believe in an order of values higher than the individual can easily aspire to also believe that tolerance,

appreciation of circumstances, relativity and concern for others are more important and more difficult to attain than the comforts of moral certainty.

The more we learn of the universe, the more complex a continuing experiment it appears. If the human species has some special part to play, perhaps it lies precisely in our potential to evaluate and adjust in accordance with our changing relationship to that universe.

As for the sanctity of human life, the absolutists have the same choice regarding its protection and preservation as the rest of us. Our populations will be brought to balance with our planetary resources willily nilly; all we can choose is whether that is done by humane or by inhumane processes. Humane processes will include birth control of which abortion is for many societies a legitimate last resort. Inhumane processes are at work in Ethiopia, Chad, southern Sudan, Mali and Eritrea.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH SIDNEY,
25 Ellington Street, N7,
August 29.

From Mr Edgar Brennan

Sir, Mr Nicolas Walter (August 28) confuses moral absolutism with ideological absolutism.

It was not moral absolutism which produced the great religious persecutions, the Communist purges, the Nazi harrying of the Jews and so on. It was ideological absolutism, including that of the self-styled nationalists.

Untempered by moral absolutism, ideological absolutism issues in the principle that the end (in the above cases, the maintenance of the correct ideology) justifies the means.

Yours faithfully,
EDGAR BRENNAN,
12 Canley Gardens, SE19,
August 28.

Star wars problems

From Mr John May

Sir, Lord Chalfont, in his patronising article (August 19), completely misrepresents the genesis of the star wars initiative and the technical issues surrounding it.

Laying aside a host of subsidiary quibbles, his biggest omission concerns computer systems.

Professor David Parnas recently became the first scientist hired by SDIO (Strategic Defence Initiative Office) to resign from the project, on the grounds that the problems of creating the computer programmes for such a system were insoluble because of "very fundamental mathematical problems".

Ten million lines of computer code would be necessary to operate such a system. As an *Economist* correspondent pointed out:

"No regimen of testing or simulation, no application of programme verification techniques, is even on the horizon which would not leave such a vast programme with many bugs."

Seventy key British computer scientists have so far refused to cooperate with SDI and have

petitioned George Bush to that effect. Dr Henry Thompson, of Edinburgh University's artificial intelligence department, has said: "The star wars computer system is impossible to design, impossible to build and impossible to test. The only way it could be tested would be to invite the Soviets to launch their missiles."

In the US organised opposition has surfaced in their most important technological universities - Stanford, MIT, Caltech, University of Illinois - who have variously accused the SDI office of "blatant salesmanship" and "gross misrepresentation"; they are refusing to accept funding from the project.

At present most US universities refuse to carry out classified research but they are now, because of SDI, under pressure from the Government to change their position.

SDI is a dangerous and divisive development which Britain should strongly oppose on moral, political and technological grounds.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MAY,
8 Lansdown Place,
Lewes,
East Sussex.

Fears on epidemics

From the President and the Honorary Secretary of the British Paediatric Association

Sir, Members of the British Paediatric Association (BPA) share the concern of your correspondents of August 24 - particularly where the health of children may be prejudiced. This association has promoted two developments to counter old and new infective diseases.

1. As part of its proposals for the integration of the child health services the BPA wishes to see suitably trained consultant paediatricians appointed to lead the secondary care community services for children. One responsibility of these consultants would be to supervise the immunization programmes for the district, monitoring uptake and advising on immunization in individual cases referred from general practitioners.

2. The BPA, the Communicable Disease Surveillance Unit (CDSU) and the Department of Epidemiology at the Institute of Child Health have jointly established a national paediatric surveillance unit. Drawing on experience obtained from a

survey on infant encephalopathy (from which important information about the risk of pertussis immunization was obtained) this unit will develop a notification system allowing paediatricians to inform the BPA when they encounter surveyed diseases.

Laboratory and epidemiological investigations will proceed and a national pattern of any rare condition will rapidly emerge with obvious potential for disease control and research. This has worked satisfactorily in a number of diseases and could be extended to include conditions where an infective cause is less likely.

In view of the close relationship between the CDSU and the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS), the BPA would join your earlier correspondents and express its serious reservations concerning proposed administrative reorganization of the PHLS.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN O. FORFAR, President,
T. L. CHAMBERS,
Honorary Secretary,
British Paediatric Association,
23 Queen Square, WC1,
August 28.

At one remove

From Mr Jack Adrian

Sir, I chorled at the equation of Anthony Eden with Harry Wharton (feature, August 26) I cackinated at the thought that Harold Skinner hid the identity of Oswald Mosley. The notion that T. S. Eliot's alter ego was none other than Fisher T. Fish caused tears of mirth to drop, like in Autumn leaves that strew the brooks in Vallombrosa, from my eyes.

But Quely? Returning to his study to ponder poetics? Does not this howling dummy David Hughes, this fabulous ass, this burbling

bandersnatch, know that when that beast (but a just beast) Henry Samuel Quely closed his study door it was to sequester himself at his typewriter (doubtless an ancient Remington) and pound away at yet another chapter of that magnum opus of his declining years, *The History of Greyhairs* (12 vols at the last count)?

I speak as one who knows. Yours faithfully,
JACK ADRIAN,
Clematis Cottage,
Bury End Street,
Cradley,
Near Malvern,
Hereford & Worcester.

Revival of elms

From Mr Guy Messenger

Sir, I manage a woodland nature reserve on behalf of the Leicester Rutland Trust for Nature Conservation and have for some months been urging a policy on the trust of attempting to promote the survival of elm suckers and sucker hedges by means of coppicing and trimming. There are many miles of vigorously growing elm hedges in Leicestershire and Rutland, and they only show signs of the Dutch disease to which your Science Report refers (August 27) where they are allowed to grow unchecked by periodical trimming.

There is considerably less elm in woodland, but in many woods where the standard elms have all

died and been removed, suckers continue to appear. Some of these are under our control in trust reserves and we shall do all we can to conserve them.

Fortunately, in Leicestershire we have extensive and detailed records of the location and identity of a great many individual elm trees, vouched for by the late Dr R. H. Riches before his untimely death. We are therefore in a position to put a name to many elm sucker communities which would otherwise be unidentifiable so long as they remain subject to trimming and coppicing.

Yours etc,
GUY MESSENGER,
27 South View,
Uppingham,
Leicestershire,
August 27.



ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 2 1939

The invasion of Poland was followed by the British and French demand that the German troops should be withdrawn. A final Note by Britain presented in Berlin at 8 am on Sunday.

September 3 gave the German Government two hours in which to give an undertaking of withdrawal. At 11.15 the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain announced "that no such undertaking has been received and that consequently this country is at war with Germany".

INVASION OF POLAND

MANY TOWNS BOMBED

WAR WITHOUT A DECLARATION

From Our Correspondent

WARSAW SEPT 1
Hostilities began at 5.30 this morning on German Polish frontiers with a heavy and apparently unannounced bombardment of Katowice from the air. The city was attacked with high explosive bombs as far as is known there had been no declaration of war. Krakow, Tczew (near the Danzig border) and Tule (between Krakow and Czenstochowa) were attacked with incendiary bombs.

At 6.15 am the air raid sirens sounded for the first time in Warsaw but no bombs fell until 9 am when the capital was attacked from the air with incendiary and explosive bombs. Many Polish fighters went up to intercept the raiders and there was thrilling aerial combat. The casualties resulting from this first attack were not known.

Subsequently during the day the capital was raided five or six times. On one occasion between 4.30 and 5.30 the bombers attacked the centre of the city and flew down the Vistula bombing the bridges. Several of them crashed. For the most part the bombs were chased away by the Polish fighters and anti-aircraft fire, and the damage was almost entirely done outside the city in the suburbs. Seven people were killed at a place 40 miles from Warsaw. One flight of bombers on being chased unloaded their bombs on the country resort of Orlow 15 miles from the capital. Of these six bombers, four escaped and two were brought down either by fighters or the anti-aircraft gun. In the afternoon excited crowds watched the flight of the German bombers above Warsaw swooping and twirling as light quick-firing guns peppered the sky with puffs of smoke.

RELAYS OF BOMBERS

Reports from Katowice state that the German aeroplanes have been coming over in squadrons of 50 every half-hour and that there have been many casualties. The anti-aircraft guns went into action only after the second wave since midday telephonic communication has been cut off. At that time a correspondent in Katowice reported that the population was beginning to be shaken by the terrific bombing, but that there, as elsewhere, they were behaving with extraordinary stoicism.

This morning air attacks were also made on Puck aimed at the aerodrome and Gdynia where the bombs fell into the sea. A bombardment of Bilay Podlaska was aimed at the aircraft factory.

OFFICIALS AMAZED

The news of the German invasion amazed the officials of the Polish Foreign Office who had been up all night studying the latest dispatches. Until late yesterday when Herr Hitler's "minimum demands" were published by the official German news agency, it was thought that the exchange between London and Berlin was going on satisfactorily. The so-called "demands" of Germany had never been transmitted to Poland officially and only became known here through the German official news agency. It is therefore regarded as impossible for Herr Hitler to say that he waited in vain for two days for Poland's reply. It is known here that when Sir Neville Henderson saw Herr von Ribbentrop, the German Foreign Minister in a rage, suggested Herr Hitler's demands so fast that the British Ambassador was unable to gather what Herr von Ribbentrop was saying.

As a result of this interview Great Britain warned Poland of the nature of Germany's "minimum demands" but only through the German agency did Poland get the exact text. The German excuse for invasion namely "the invasion by Polish diversionist bands near Gleiwitz" is described as a tissue of lies.

Glories recalled

From Mr John Cooper

Sir, In his letter to *The Times* (August 28) Sir Robin MacLellan suggests that the occupant of a house named Dunchippin might be a retired stonemason, fish frier, or an electronic wizard who has turned in his micro chips. Surely it is more likely that he is an old golfer who has finally put away his clubs.

House names can often be misunderstood, as I discovered quite recently when I noticed that a new friend's home was called Llamados. Curious to know whether perhaps it commemorated a honeymoon spent on the Costa Brava, or maybe an idyllic holiday in central Wales, but not liking to ask directly, I consulted my *Times Atlas* only to find that no such place appeared to exist.

The mystery was, however, resolved when I realized that Llamados spelled backwards reflects a refreshing attitude to life in general and authority in particular not uncommon among members of HM Forces, in which my friend served as an RAF wing commander prior to his retirement.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COOPER,
12 Dunkeld Road,
Talbot Wood,
Bournemouth,
Dorset,
August 28.

Industry first will get down to nuts and bolts

Britain's first national forum for professional engineers opens in Birmingham tomorrow, its establishment the result of an early commitment by the Engineering Council when it was set up in 1982.

Its aim is to provide a forum for grass roots opinion among professional engineers, with 19 regions electing 114 delegates.

There are those among the engineering institutional bodies that while welcoming the assembly, still have reservations about it. When power in the profession switched from the old Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI) to the new Engineering Council the elective basis of the assembly was seen as an offset to the appointed basis of the council whose members were selected initially by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The question being asked by some senior figures in the institutions is how far those elected to the assembly will put over institutional views?

One senior member of a leading institution said: "All we might get are purely individual views rather than the views of a whole institution. It is also happening only once a year. But, having said that, there are good people on the assembly and we shall have to see how things settle down." It means the assembly, for the time being, will get a fair wind even from those with reservations.

Chartered engineers at the top rank of the profession will, nevertheless, be in a majority in the assembly. Each region has elected four chartered professionals with two others who are drawn from the ranks of either technician engineers (the second rank) or engineering technicians (the third rank).

Two of those elected are women: Mrs Linda Maynard, a chartered gas engineer who is the incoming president of the Women's Engineering Society; and Ms Bernice Bernard who is qualified in civil, mechanical and agricultural engineering.

There are no reservations about the Assembly from Dr

Kenneth Miller, director general of the Engineering Council. While the CEI was dominated by chartered engineers the assembly has been deliberately given over by a third to the non-chartered, he said. "There will be a gain in being part of a stronger and wider whole. It will cement relations. It will get away from too narrow views."

There were 368 nominations for the assembly places bringing voting into play in almost every case. Dr Miller said: "This was reasonably satisfactory, showing a sufficient interest by the profession. We are genuinely looking to the assembly as an opportunity for a two-way exchange of views and ideas between the profession's grass roots and the council. Some very good people have been elected."

Major drive to communicate with the regions, schools and universities

Although the assembly has no direct executive power it will be able to put the council's policies under the microscope and to pass resolutions reflecting the profession's views which the council will then have to consider. The council will be expected to report back on its subsequent reactions by the next assembly at the latest. The assembly will normally meet annually although there is a provision for other meetings to be called when needed.

The chairman of the assembly is Sir Francis Tombs, chairman of Rolls-Royce and Turner & Newall, two of Britain's bigger engineering companies. He became chairman of the Engineering Council last May, in succession to Sir Kenneth Corfield, the first chairman.

Sir Francis will invite observers to the assembly from industry, education and government. There will be special emphasis this year in bringing in 20 younger people already climbing the engineering profession ladder.

This week's assembly could prove to be lively. There will be debates on the state of industry, education and training, the profession's regional organization, on communications and the work of the Engineering Council. A final closed session will give the chance for some straight talking away from the public limelight.

Among the scheduled speeches are those from Sir Alex Iarratt, Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, Sir Francis and Dr Miller.

A wide variety of motions have been put down for discussion. Many are concerned with the status of the professional engineer, both in relation to company attitudes and those of society.

There is a call for engineers to become more closely involved in strategic deliberations on productive enterprise with more involvement in creating industrial opportunities within local communities. More resources for education and training of professional engineers are urged to provide enough engineers for Britain's needs, particularly in new technology.

There are several calls for improvement in communications between the council and the grass roots engineers, both as individuals and in regional groups.

The structure of the profession, with its plethora of institutional bodies, will also be debated.

One aspect that is expected to be drawn out is the role of regional committees which are being built up on the foundations of those regional organizations set up during the CEI period. One motion calls for a constitutional link to be established between each regional committee and the Engineering Council to promote the ex-

change of views and information.

The regional committees will have up to 40 members including those elected to the assembly. Each of the 16 chartered institutions will have a direct voice through nomination of one committee member each, with another five nominated from technician bodies. There will be some co-opted members and a couple of non-institution members.

The balance, as on the assembly, will be two thirds chartered engineers and a third technicians.

Dr Miller said: "The committees we inherited from the CEI period - about 16 - have been doing valuable things particularly on school liaison. It is something we want to build on."

Because the regional committees could provide a more frequent link with the Engineering Council they are being seen by some institutions as one way of overcoming the possible shortcomings of holding an assembly once a year.

A more radical idea which has quietly been going the rounds among some institutions is for there to be a more permanent consultative body to present to the council the profession's views, its membership being on a weighted basis so that individual institutions would have influence related to size.

The intriguing question about the assembly is how far it will measure up in national importance as a media event to conferences such as those of the Confederation of British Industry or the Institute of Directors.

"While we are running it like the CBI conference it will be much more oriented towards technology, education and training. These aspects of industry have in the past been getting less attention than they deserve. There has not been enough understanding particularly of technology," Dr Miller said.

Derek Harris
Commercial Editor



Cementing relations: Dr Kenneth Miller, director general of the Engineering Council

Who pays the piper

The council has been self-financing since the £1 million-a-year Government priming aid ran out in the middle of this year. Director general, Dr Miller, said he was pleased to be independent of the grant, and chairman, Sir Francis Tombs, said: "Any self-respecting professional body should live by its own resources."

Revenue for the council will come from three sources:

- Contributions from industrial company affiliates;
- Registrations from professional engineers;
- Projects ranging from publications to carrying out Government schemes.

Target income from industrial affiliates is £500,000 a year. So far 90 companies have come in, promising £328,000 a year. They include many companies like Shell, BP, Esso, ICI, Courtaulds and Glaxo, and nationalized industries like British Rail, British Gas, British Shipbuilders and the British Airways Authority. General Electric Company (GEC), STC, IBM, Racal and Ferranti, and many in heavy engineering like TI, GKN, Northern Engineering Industries, Vickers and Rolls-Royce, are also coming into the fold.

Registration and admission fees for chartered engineers are going up from £3.20 a year to £7 next January. The lower fees for the two technician grades are also rising. Subscription is expected to rise to £1.4 million, almost half of next year's projected resources.

The council forecasts total income next year at around £2.85 million with £400,000 coming from examination fees and some £260,000 from three national awards and competitions. Special project income is set around £290,000.

Nobody knows, however, how many professional engineers may choose not to stay on the register because of the cost of contributing both to the council and their particular institution.

Registration entitles an engineer to the chartered engineer (C.Eng) title, or its technician equivalent.

From Glasgow, from Gloucester, from Cardiff and from County Down they're coming to help Britain make it.

The Engineering Council was set up to promote the cause of engineering in Britain.

This is not merely a body isolated in London and out of touch with the needs and aspirations of engineers from the provinces.

On the contrary. The country is divided into 19 regions which elect representatives who can voice their opinion on the policies of The Council and report progress to the profession.

There are 114 such representatives who will be coming to the first Engineering Assembly on Tuesday and Wednesday this week.

For if we don't keep our ears to the ground, how can we formulate policies that will be of most benefit to most people.

And that means every man, woman and child in Britain.



FIGHTING TO HELP BRITAIN MAKE IT

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Welcomes THE ENGINEERING ASSEMBLY

The Engineering Council has chosen the University of Birmingham as the setting for the first meeting of the Engineering Assembly. This is entirely appropriate. For more than a century, teaching and advanced research in engineering have been undertaken in the University to the highest international standards. There is an impressive record of collaboration with local and national industry through advanced technological research, teaching companies, studentships and consultancies. One month ago, this work was given renewed emphasis and focus by the establishment of a separate Faculty of Engineering with 1500 students and more than 250 teaching and research staff.

The Departments of the Faculty are:

Chemical Engineering	Mechanical Engineering
Civil Engineering	Metallurgy and Materials
Electronic and Electrical Engineering	Transportation and Highway Engineering
Engineering Production	

Each of these Departments undertakes undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, research, industrial collaboration and consultancy. Special emphasis is being given to the formation of Teaching Companies with industry and to a multi-disciplinary approach as in Automotive Engineering, Computer Integrated Manufacture, Flexible Manufacturing Systems, and Electronics and IT.

If you would like to know more about Engineering at Birmingham, write to:

Professor R. E. Smallman,
Dean of Faculty of Engineering,
University of Birmingham,
Birmingham B15 2TT.



THE ENGINEERING ASSEMBLY/2

(SPECIAL REPORT)

Getting in shape to fight for the market

The honeymoon between the Engineering Council and the industry appears to be over. Established some three years ago to improve the climate for engineers and other professionals in engineering, it ran out of Government start-up aid in the middle of this year.

Now it depends on cash contributions from industry and the fees of the professional engineers on its register. Both will be looking to it to see whether they are getting value for money.

The tone of motions down for debate at the two-day Engineering Assembly, meeting for the first time tomorrow, makes it clear that grass-roots professionals will be demanding much more from the council.

In the fiercely competitive international market there were indications that the performance of British industry was improving. One sign was the recent Consumer Association finding that British-made domestic electrical appliances were the most reliable on the market. This has been seized on by Dr Kenneth Miller, director general of the council.

He said he was acutely aware how foreign competitors could dominate whole market segments, as the Japanese had done with cameras and motor cycles. But he was encouraged by changes he saw in industry, such as the realization of some more far-sighted trade union leaders that the long-term interests of their members were best met in a successful industry.

Dr Miller said: "Some trade union leaders want to live in the past and it is hard for them when job reductions come. But there are encouraging signs in some unions. Management, too, has had a fair shake-up with the realization that to survive they must get their technology and strategy right." The council had contributed to better technology by pressing for technical audits with explanatory literature of which 20,000 copies had so far been requested by companies.

The council had forged useful links with the City, he said. This was important in educating big investors to demand better technical performances from companies.

The council's biggest success so far had been to persuade the Government to put more

resources into educating more engineers and technologists, with 4,000 places having been created in higher education institutions, Dr Miller said.

It was also looking at ways of improving the continuing training and education of practising engineers to meet constantly changing technological demands.

The council was also concerned at the effect of cutbacks on staff-student ratios at universities. Too many professors and lecturers with an engineering background took voluntary early retirement to take up another career.

He wanted this system changed, Dr Miller said, and believed the Government, in basing cutbacks on a declining birth-rate, was overlooking how many more women would want to go to university and into engineering.

Further education was crucial when low-skilled jobs were

Structure
of the
varied
profession
will also
be debated



Mr Ron Kirby: Director of public affairs

being lost while demand in more highly-skilled sectors increased. In Britain, 40 per cent of the population left school by age 16 and were unlikely to have any further education. In West Germany the proportion was 14 per cent and in Japan 4 per cent.

Dr Miller said: "We simply have to do something about the education system. We are so intellectual and theoretical we turn off a vast percentage of the population." There had been a failure to integrate the vo-

national approach of teaching through practical work with the purely academic approach, he said.

One of the problems was that many academics and teachers had no concept of what industry was really about, he said. "We have to see the right information gets through to them so teachers are introduced to the real challenge of industry."

This also had to be impressed on youngsters, and the council aimed to take a lead in careers information and guidance, mainly at regional level.

Women had become increasingly important in engineering. The proportion starting degrees in engineering had risen from 1 per cent in 1970 to nearly 9 per cent in 1983.

"One factor is that women have to be trained in the right way. But there are also many social factors persuading women to go into nursing and teaching in particular. We have to convince them engineering is as interesting and worthwhile," Dr Miller said.

The council had a working party looking at the problems a woman faced when re-entering the profession after a break to start a family, he said. Two options many favour are to take part-time work or participate in a job-sharing scheme. A first report from the group is expected this year.

Dr Miller said the regional organization being built up by the council was crucial to the changes needed in education and its relations with industry.

"A great deal now has to be done to strengthen links between the academic world and industry and a lot of that will happen regionally. There is nothing quite like the local school and local businesses actually getting to know each other," he said.

Mr Ron Kirby, director of public affairs for the council, said the public was now much better aware of engineering's vital role and of the work of the council. An advertising and public relations campaign at the end of the last year had been particularly effective, he said.

Another major task was the drive to communicate with the regions and through them to schools, universities, engineers and industry, said Mr Kirby.

DH



Sir Francis Tombs: First elected chairman

In the driving seat . . .

A man with considerable experience of very fine motors sees the Engineering Council as an engine of change within the industry.

Sir Francis Tombs, first elected chairman of Rolls-Royce, believes formal training and education are important areas in which the Council must concentrate.

The Council had already achieved widespread exposure as the voice of engineering and was listened to in government, he said. It had also done much to set standards in the profession and to clarify accreditation by academic institutions.

Sir Francis, who succeeds the first chairman Sir Kenneth Corfield, said he hoped industry would be able to contribute more to the design of courses and to more and better training courses.

"I would also like to see more mobility between the academic and industrial spheres, with more industrialists acting as visiting lecturers at higher academic institutions, and being involved at local schools' level," he said.

"There should be more interplay between industry and academic institutions in sponsored work, secondments, and mobility. Other countries manage this and we must work towards it."

The assembly was a chance to

enhance the profession's stature and emphasise the importance of work on the ground, particularly in bringing industrial influence to bear on schools.

The Council needed to continue its international work to encourage mutual acceptance of qualifications and so enhance the professional engineer's mobility, Sir Francis said.

On the wider role of the engineer, he said, engineers should also be engineering managers. "It is a great mistake to think engineers can solve every problem in the world but they do have a big contribution to make both to engineering and general management. But I think specialist skills like marketing and finance will remain specialized skills."

When the Council was established, all its members were appointed. Elections are now carried out within the council after wide consultation and based on lists of names suggested by engineering institutions and others in the industry.

When Sir Francis was appointed chairman of Rolls-Royce he had also been chairman of Turner and Newall for some years - the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Norman Tebbit, said he hoped he would stay on to do the Council job for three years.

Sobering survey of the UK skills famine

One of the more influential state papers published in recent years will probably turn out to be *Competence and Competition*, a comparative survey of vocational and technological education and training produced jointly by the Manpower Services Commission and the National Economic Development Office.

It makes worrying reading for all those who accept there is some correlation between trained manpower and economic success. Its message is directed as much to individuals who ought to do more to get the training, and employers, who

should spend more on training their staff, as to government - which holds the purse strings for formal education.

The report unequivocally says Britain needs more trained technologists, at all levels of skills. It argues that it would, in the long run, be better to have unemployed technologists than unemployed arts graduates or unskilled people.

The message has won broad acceptance. It runs parallel to the Engineering Council's and thanks to its promotional and lobbying efforts eventually perhaps the indices for the supply of trained manpower

and technologists will move up. The accession of a new generation of technologist vice-chancellors may help. So will more money for engineering courses.

In his budget statement earlier this year the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, announced that £43 million was being reserved over three years to provide extra places in engineering and technology within higher education. The programme - now being worked out - followed the council's advice to the Department of Education.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Sec-

retary of State for Education, said: "The programme marks a substantial response to requests from industry for an increased output of graduates in engineering and technology. The programme is to be financed from existing departmental budgets."

But the Engineering Council is convinced it marks a turning tide and would probably heartily agree with Sir Keith that the effect will "provide further stimulus to the output of engineers and technologists and hence to the economy."

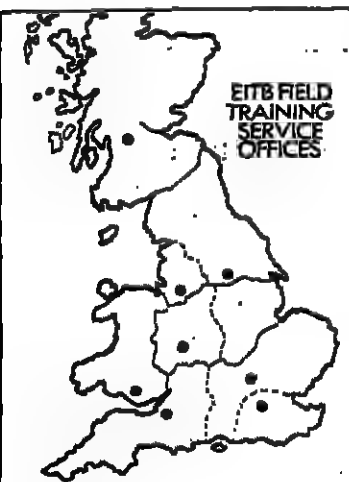
David Walker



Sir Keith Joseph: Answering requests from industry

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SPECIAL REPORT

THE ENGINEERING
ASSEMBLY/3How the Council
learned to stand
on its own two feet

When Mrs Thatcher's government came to power, great play was made about cutting back the luxuriant growth of quangos - quasi-autonomous - non-government organizations. Ministers were to hack fearlessly through the institutional foliage of committees, bodies, councils, commissions, all paid for by public funds but only barely accountable, an apparatus of government over which the Government had little control.

There has been some culling of the quangos: they are even, in principle, to be made subject to the new managerial disciplines of Whitehall. But there is still a great number of these public bodies in education, and especially in education for science and technology.

Until July the Engineering Council, itself a quango, was paid for by the Department of Trade and Industry but separate from Whitehall. It is now, to the evident relief of its director, a free-standing body to which public money comes indirectly only and as a relatively small proportion of its income.

But the council still exists in the quango forest. Its daily dealings are with a multitude of public bodies, from the CNA (the chartered body which validates degrees awarded by polytechnics and non-university colleges) to SCOTVEC (the Scottish Vocational Education Council). The council co-exists rather than rules.

This means the proponents of a shift of resources into engineering education have to work by stealth. For example, in 1981 the University Grants Committee, confronted with a marked reduction in aggregate public funds for university teaching over the next few years, distributed the money in such a way that a number of institutions faced rapid re-orientation.

Among them were the University of Salford and the University of Aston, both former colleges of advanced technology, with a bias in their work towards technology. Since the Government was simultaneously preaching the need to shift money into technological education, the downgrading of Salford and Aston - and other institutions - looked paradoxical.

The committee which had acted according to its own tried and trusted criteria of academic merit in distributing the available money, was criticized.

The recent sudden cuts have damaged some of the universities

The Engineering Council observes a protocol in these matters but refers to the 1981 cuts as "degradations". Calling them "unintentional", the council was hardly offering the committee and its planning capacity a paean of praise.

"The recent period of relatively sudden cuts in funding suffered by universities has resulted in some unintended effects detrimental to engineering. Despite statements that engineering should to some extent be protected, untoward reductions have taken place in the engineering departments," it said.

Partly because of such criticism, the committee is now to come under review. Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for

Education, announced recently that Lord Croham, former permanent secretary at the Treasury, is to lead an examining committee.

Now the wheel comes full circle. The council will present evidence to the Croham committee, endeavouring to put across the case for more earmarked funds for engineering institutions and departments.

If, as a result of Croham, the committee is disbanded or reformed, the council will have had its pennyworth. Through it the voice of the engineering profession will have been heard.



Report set out bold ambitions for bringing students into engineering

Working within the labyrinth of quangos and institutions, the council must be patient and repetitive. There will rarely be dramatic breakthroughs in the articulation of the engineers' case, if only because the council addresses a great variety of audiences, public, bureaucratic and political.

The fullest statement of the council's case was made in a document issued early last year, its *Policy Statement on Resources for Engineering Education*. Presented simultaneously to government ministers, members of university senates, polytechnic directors and councillors, it set out bold ambitions for a movement of students and money into engineering courses.

One of its central proposals was a five-year earmarking of funds by the Department of Education and Science.

The rubric to the statement said clearly reform of funding was needed "to provide the country with qualified engineers so vital to wealth creation". Reform was needed to ensure sufficient resources arrived in the classrooms and lecture halls - and this might mean by-passing the university senates and college governing bodies.

"While acknowledging that the University Grants Committee and equivalent bodies have tried to shift the balance, they have the difficult task of apportioning resources for all subjects. By a 'weighting' process they make allocations to each university or college which, after an additional filter at senate or governing body level, does not necessarily ensure that appropriate resources for engineering always arrive."

What happened in the 1981 committee cuts, Jack Levy, the Engineering Council's executive responsible for the engineering profession, said, is not that

the council's remit, of course, extends to education wherever it occurs, for the number and quality of chartered engineers and of engineering technicians depends on career choice made and attitudes adopted much earlier in life.

Here again the council's role is that of persuader and manipulator of symbols rather than the wielder of executive power. The content of school examinations is laid down by autonomous boards; the school curriculum is decided locally.

This is changing as the central government moves to take a bigger role. But the opportunities for direct influence by a national body such as the Engineering Council are few.

Lord Croham: Investigating where the millions go

departments were singled out; engineering faculties were hurt inadvertently. They tended to have older staff who were more likely to accept inducements to retire early, and the result was that they lost valuable manpower. "The object now is to make good the shortfall and avoid further random reductions," he said.

The council is proposing guaranteed funds for departments chosen on the same criteria it already applies when assessing university and college courses in order to validate the qualifications they offer. There also should be minimum ratios of staff to students.

Overall there should be a 10 per cent swing within the total number of places in higher education in favour of science and technology students. Because such courses cost more than arts and social science places, this will entail additional money from the Government.

Mr Levy, formerly a professor at the City University, rejects charges - heard in the wake of the recent government Green Paper on the future shape of higher education - that this emphasis on science and technology is somehow philistine or over-narrow.

He need only point to the entries in last year's Young Engineer for Britain scheme to make the point - engineering has humanistic and aesthetic content. It is a discipline within which sincere social and environmental concerns can be fully expressed.



Council's role is to persuade rather than to use power

The young engineer competition, organized by the Engineering Council and paid for by the Department of Trade and Industry, is open to 12- to 19-year-olds whether at work, at school or college. Last year's finalists offered an array of projects, from a solar-powered refrigerator to a portable sailing dinghy slipway.

What was noteworthy about the entries was their humanity. The South of England regional winner had designed a fire door controller. Among the designs offered by his competitors were a stair-climbing aid, a go-kart for paraplegic children, a fluid measuring container for the blind, a wheelchair kerb climber, a blood glucose monitor and a series of useful, life enhancing ideas.

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Lord Croham: Investigating where the millions go



Jack Levy, left, at MK Electric, and Naomi Hartley, with her entry in a young engineers' competition, an educational toy for handicapped children



New guard swings balance towards technology

An academic new guard will, without fanfare, take over key positions later this month on a number of university campuses and the cause of re-directing British education towards science and technology will have won another battle.

Bristol, London, Warwick, Southampton and 10 or more other universities are about to welcome new vice-chancellors. Taken together with appointments made during the past 18 months this represents, in the stolid and long-lived academic world, something of a revolution. And it has been marked by the advance of engineers.

University appointments committees work in secret and mysterious ways.

Their principles are righteously meritorious. But there is no doubt that recently they have all been moved by a similar yearning - to provide leadership for their institutions that will serve in an era when the emphasis is on the universities' contribution to economic life and especially their work training and researching in technology.

That, at least, is the high-minded version. The financial fact is that universities are increasingly dependent on winning funds from industry and engineers appear best placed to do it. The universities are not selling their soul. The new appointments include that of Sir John Kingman FRS at Bristol, lately chairman of the Science

and Engineering Research Council and a distinguished scientist in his own right. He is someone usefully familiar with the world of research funding and grantsmanship.

Typical of the new generation is Warwick University's choice of Clark Brundin, an American-born engineering researcher, to succeed Lord Butterworth, a lawyer, as vice-chancellor. Mr Brundin has a distinguished academic record and he knows about research contracts. His appointment is a symbol of Warwick's emphasis on its applied work, its science park, and its industrial connections.

What this new pattern of university appointments suggests is a swing, a

slow but perceptible shift within institutions. It is part of the drift which gave rise to the Engineering Council and which the council now seeks to accelerate. The meeting of the Engineering Assembly is a not too distant kin of those university senates that are trying, often painfully, to shift resources and manpower.

All together, the recent Green Paper on higher education, with its emphasis on science and technology, the University Grants Committee's programme, statements by the National Advisory Board for public sector higher education - all indicate that the ball is rolling.

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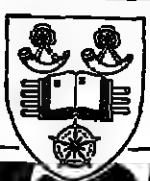
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ASSEMBLY/4

(SPECIAL REPORT)

A sensible kind of rivalry

"There's competition," said Graham Anthony, the Engineering Council's executive responsible for industry, "and there's competition."

"Engineering is terribly fragmented. There is a great danger of firms fighting local battles with each other rather than getting to grips with the big issues of competition - Britain's international competitiveness based on the supply and quality of our technology."

"If the Engineering Council has one ambition, it is to instil some sense of common purpose, to encourage collaboration between firms, not to blunt their competitive edge but to make them aware of how urgent are the engineering issues affecting us all."

Mr Anthony used words like discipline and disunity with some reluctance. The Engineering Council could not - even if it wanted to - wave a big stick at the warring factions within the engineering profession nor force firms to co-operate to compete overseas. It must work by tact and persuasion.

But he was adamant that there were collective imperatives for engineering and the Engineering Council alone could act on them - to the eventual benefit of individual companies.

This was the reasoning behind the recent launch by the Engineering Council of its scheme for industrial affiliates, companies paying it a subscription and in return taking a full corporate part in its work.

"Positively not an act of philanthropy," was Mr Anthony's phrase for affiliation which at the last count included most of the big names in British engineering from the BBC to George Wimpey.

"What they are subscribing to



Graham Anthony surveys the Stock Exchange. He wants the City to appreciate the value of engineering

is an agency for long-term change both in attitudes and political decision-making. They are investing, if you like, in the supply side, for it is our job to improve the supply of engineers."

Subscription rates are based on employee numbers with special arrangements for firms (or public organizations) which employ only a few engineers. The income helps. The Engineering Council came off the life-line of government money in July and it depends now on fees paid by registered engineers, agency work, examinations and its affiliates.

A first meeting of affiliates is scheduled for early November. The council will explain what it is doing and in response it hopes for an expression of corporate anxieties about, say, the supply of engineers. "We wanted the income but we also wanted dialogue with industry," Mr Anthony said.

The council, in its early days

increasing awareness of engineering inside the bastion of corporate finance, the City of London. It has produced a booklet on appraising the technical potential of a manufacturing company intended to assist banks.

With only 40 or so staff, the Engineering Council does not pretend to be an executive body. It works through agents: a purpose of the industrial affiliates scheme is to turn companies into local representatives for engineering and engineers.

"There is a whole menu of things we want companies to do both nationally and locally," Mr Anthony said, citing especially the way firms recruit young people. Companies could, he said, make fuller use of their annual reports to explain technological development. This links with the council's aim of expanding technical reviews of companies, assessing the use made of technology as part of an examination of investment potential.

"Most people do not realize how important engineering is to the creation of the wealth of the country, or how seriously our manufacturing base has been threatened by the lack of attention paid to engineers."

One of the council's advertisements (produced by Wight Collins Rutherford Scott to run in the quality press) showed a day-dreaming boy in an ecclesiastical setting looking up at various statues and memorials with the punchline: "Why isn't there an Engineers' Corner in Westminster Abbey?" This reflects a widespread feeling among professional engineers that they are under-recognized in the award of knighthoods and other decorations.

David Walker

demand for engineers and salaries were pushed up to make the engineering option more attractive.

Graham Anthony, of the council's staff, rejects this. He says: "There is a desperate shortage of engineers, except possibly in certain areas like civil engineering. This shortage is being reflected in salaries and pay levels."

"Electronic engineers have seen salary levels rise significantly. Engineers' salaries are nowhere near as low as people think they are."

Mr Anthony is untroubled by reports that an increased supply of engineering graduates will not necessarily mean more engineers.

Already a good proportion of the best and brightest of engineering's graduate crop, for example from Cambridge, are attracted into banking, finance and fields outside, indeed, a high proportion of all the jobs open to graduates are non-specific as to the subject matter of a graduate's degree course.

Mr Anthony says Britain benefits simply by having more engineers, whatever they are doing.

He says: "We have to lay this bogey that engineers are narrowly focused. The fact is that in industry they are rising to the highest positions of power and influence both as engineers and as managers."

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Brain drain to Europe

gain by the fullest and freest exchange of trained manpower across national boundaries.

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The Engineering Council serves as the national conduit for representation on various international bodies. Recently Britain has made progress towards general acceptance of the chartered engineer qualification within FEANI, the European engineering association. This will be an important

first step on the tortuous path through the EEC bureaucracy. Brussels will eventually have to give its approval if mutual recognition is to have a proper basis in law.

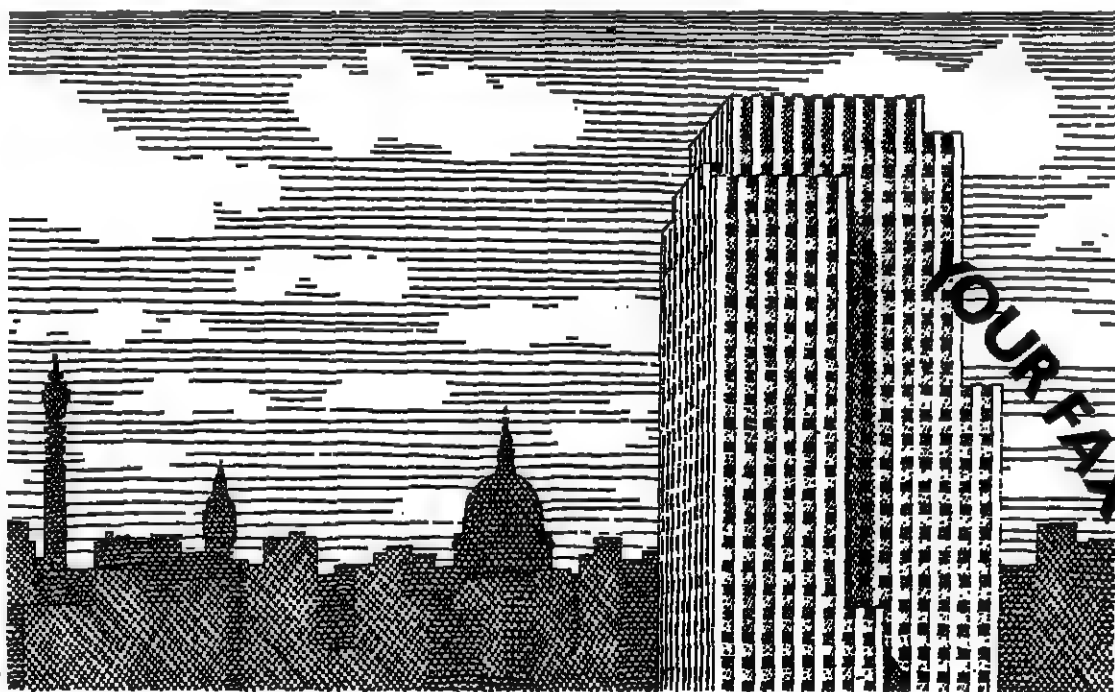
Engineers working in North America or elsewhere have to secure acceptance of their qualification on an ad hoc basis; again, the Engineering Council has hopes of eventually securing multilateral recognition of qualifications through the council representing Commonwealth countries (CEC) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO).

About 30 per cent of chartered British engineers are working outside Britain, whether permanently or on contract; a third of these are working in Europe.

Such large figures make it plain how useful further international agreement on the mutual recognition of qualifications would be.

Such figures also perhaps say something about the remuneration of engineers in Britain relative to that in Europe. About engineers' pay there is much dispute.

One school of thought wonders why the Engineering Council and the Government put such emphasis on increasing the supply of engineers from the schools and universities. These people argue that supply would increase if there was sufficient



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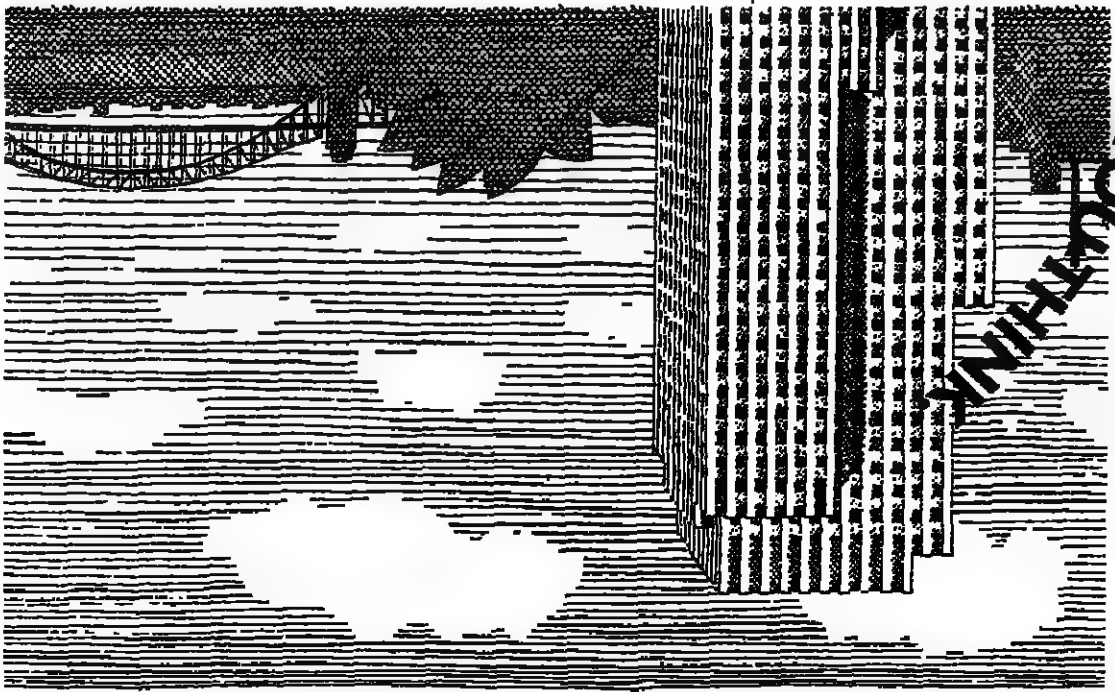
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why Treasury new boy must hit £139bn target

September, with its first hints of autumn, marks the end of the phoney war on public spending. The officials have done their work while ministers were away enjoying themselves in Cannes or Conservative Party summer school. Now, battle will commence.

The public spending round will start slowly, with low-key bilateral meetings, building up to a crescendo late in October with tales of blood on the Chief Secretary's carpet, fraught sessions in the Star Chamber and bitter rows in Cabinet. Somehow, it always ends in tears.

This year, apart from the prospect of a more difficult round than usual, added interest will be generated by Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet reshuffle, and the likelihood of a new man in the post of Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Mr Peter Rees, the present incumbent, has, it must be admitted, been tipped for the sack more times than Tommy Docherty. This time it does appear that he will have to hang up his public spending

sash. What task does the new Chief Secretary, facing a Houdini-like escape by Mr Rees, face? The goal is the achievement of an overall public spending planning total of £139 billion for next year, 1986/87. This target was reaffirmed at the July Cabinet meeting on public spending.

Standing in the way of this target are the spending departments, who would like rather more. Treasury officials who do not calculate in such a vulgar way would, if pressed, say that the level of excess bids currently adds up to about £4 billion. This is slightly more than the £3.5 billion fiscal adjustment, or tax cut, that the Treasury has pencilled in for the next Budget.

There are four main items in the present total for excess bids. Higher inflation than the Treasury had predicted has had the effect of boosting the cost of programmes next year by about £1 billion. The bulk of this arises out of the 7 per cent uprating of pensions and related rises in other social security benefits from November, partly offset by a real cut in the value of child benefit a some savings associated with the Fowler social security review.

The second important item is local authority spending, on which the Treasury has conceded an extra £500 million. This amount, on current spending, is a relatively small concession compared with previous years. However, the Treasury believes that the Department of the Environment's new system for controlling town hall spending should prevent a further request for local authority cash at this stage.

Another £500 million arises out of higher unemployment than was assumed in the public spending plans, together with increased take-up of social security benefits. The public spending White Paper, published in January, assumed adult unemployment constant at three million until 1987/88.

The unemployment figures published on Friday showed adult unemployment in August at 3,182,200, well above the assumed total. For every 100,000 that unemployment is above three million, public spending can be expected to rise by £200 million a year.

The fourth big item is the state industries. Coal, in particular, is taking a long time to recover from the financial damage inflicted by the miners' strike, while there have also been permanent effects on rail traffic. The result is that state industries taken as a whole are unlikely to come near the relatively optimistic targets that the Treasury has set them.

The total external finance of the state industries is targeted to drop to just £178 million in 1986/87, from a January target of £1.3 billion for this year and well over £3 billion last. Next year's target now looks even more unrealistic and will have to be raised by up to £1 billion.

These four items - inflation, local authorities, unemployment and state industries - add up to almost £3 billion of the £4 billion of excess bids. And here lies the difficulty with this year's round, this £3 billion is a "hard" figure, as much as these things can ever be.

When other uncertainties such as the size of the eventual teachers' pay settlement are taken on board, it is surprising to discover that the Treasury is privately quite confident of holding the public spending line, admittedly after a difficult round, and sticking with the £139 billion target.

Part of the reason for this confidence on the part of the Treasury is the Chancellor's decision, taken at Budget-time at the end of the year-long coal strike, to add £2 billion to the reserve for 1985/86 and the two subsequent years.

Because of this, the Treasury has a substantial cushion, in the form of a £6 billion reserve for 1986/87, in this year's public spending discussions.

The second reason is that next year's asset sales are likely to be much bigger in total than in existing plans. The published target is for the so-called special sales of assets to raise just £2.2 billion in 1986/87.

That target was set before the launching of the programme to privatise British Gas, which could raise £2 billion on its own next year, as the first of what will probably be four such payments. The third and final payment on British Telecom shares will bring in another £1.2 billion, and now it looks as if British Airways too will be sold off next year.

Adding all these up, and applying the usual dose of Treasury caution, an uprating of the asset sales target to £3 billion to £3.5 billion has already taken place in the Treasury.

By halving the size of next year's reserve from £6 billion to a more usual £3 billion and allowing an extra £1 billion for asset sales, the new Chief Secretary could give himself a nice and easy introduction to the job.

We can be fairly sure that this will not happen. Treasury officials point to the experience of the miners' strike as underlining the need, certainly at the November autumn statement stage, to maintain a large reserve.

What is on offer at present is no more than a £1 billion reduction in the reserve for 1986/87 to £5 billion. The cut in the reserve and the increase in asset sales by a similar amount (they are defined as negative public spending), leaves £2 billion in overbids. This can be regarded as the real battleground for the next two months.

The task for the chief Secretary, aided by the Star Chamber of senior ministers and the final say of the Prime Minister, will be to whittle the present £4 billion of excess bids down to its hard core of £3 billion. Accompanying this will be the rather more difficult job of achieving another £1 billion of "cuts" to offset part of the unavoidable £3 billion rise.

The Treasury believes it has identified the areas to attack, although it is playing its cards close to its chest. Electricity and gas prices which, in the event were raised by 4.5 and 5.5 per cent respectively, after tough negotiations with Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, last year, actually fell in real terms, because of higher than expected inflation. This may be one area where the Treasury will attempt to claw back some of the excess this year.

Lopping £2 billion off a public spending total of £139 billion may seem to be a relatively easy task, even for a new man. But we can be sure that it will be a baptism of fire. Mr Joel Barnett, in his book *Inside the Treasury*, said that the Chief Secretary's job is one where you can forget about popularity and you frequently consider handing in your resignation. It is also one which eventually, "recognition of how little one could achieve," strikes home.

This year more than most, the Treasury and the Chief Secretary's reputation rests on achieving the £139 billion planning total, without conceding too much on the reserve. In January, the 1986/87 planning total was set at £136.7 billion. In March, it was raised to £139 billion.

A further increase in the current round, would not only remove some of the scope for tax reductions, but cost dearly in terms of credibility, as well.

David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Nissan UK

Nissan UK made an operating profit of £38,419,000 in the year to July 31, 1984, compared with £34,855,000 in the previous year. It made a profit before tax of £49,713,000, compared with £51,197,000 in 1982-83, and a profit after tax of £33,918,000, compared with £26,005,000 in 1982-83. These figures were confused by printing errors in Saturday's column.

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The rate of inflation will drop sharply next year, according to Britain's businessmen. The Confederation of British Industry expects it to fall to 3.5 per cent from the present 6.9 per cent by the middle of 1986.

The CBI's August survey shows fewer manufacturers planning price rises than at any time over the past five years, and that 11 out of 50 industries surveyed expect to cut prices over the next year.

Those findings receive some backing from the Institute of Directors' Business Opinion Survey, also published today. Of companies surveyed, only 14 per cent had received what they considered to be excessive wage demands, and of these less than half had granted them.

The majority of directors, 62 per cent, are not now concerned about the effects of inflation on their businesses. Optimism on inflation prospects is also evident in two reports today from stockbroking



David Wigglesworth: severe competition in world markets.

firms. Hoare Govett expects the inflation rate to average less than 4 per cent next year, and 3.6 per cent in the second half. James Capel predicts a fall to 4 per cent by spring, although it says there are special factors which may not be sustained.

Despite the silver lining on inflation, the CBI, which has been pressing for lower interest rates, sees the overall economic

outlook as distinctly cloudier. Mr David Wigglesworth, chairman of the confederation's economic situation committee, said: "The restrictions in price expectations among manufacturers strengthens the conclusions of recent surveys that inflation will fall sharply. It reflects the severe competition in world markets. It is positive news in the battle against inflation and should remove any lingering fears the Government might have about a further cut in interest rates."

The CBI's economists now expect slower growth in the second half of this year and have revised their growth forecast for 1985 from 4 to 3.6 per cent. Next year, growth is forecast to slow to 2.5 per cent.

An abrupt slackening in the rise in manufacturing investment, from 11.5 per cent this year to 6.3 per cent next, is also predicted. The CBI thinks non-oil export growth will slow at the same time from nearly 7 to just over 5 per cent.

There had been a "jolt to confidence". Mr Wigglesworth said, because of high interest rates and the rise in the exchange rate. Export order books have deteriorated sharply, with a balance of 10 per cent of companies considering them below normal. In July, companies with below-normal export order books were matched by those with healthier order books than usual.

The dangers of a marked slowdown in growth to accompany the fall in inflation are also examined by James Capel, in his September *Economic Assessment*.

Unless wage claims moderate alongside the fall in inflation, growth could fall to less than 2 per cent next year and under 1 per cent in 1987, the assessment says.

Hoare Govett predicts that the world slowdown will hold growth in Britain to just over 2 per cent in the final three months of this year, but that next year there will be a modest revival to 3 per cent.

Nigeria may upset Opec balance with output rise

By Graham Searjeant

Gulf oil states fear that a rise in Nigerian oil production after last week's coup will put new stresses on the fragile consensus of Opec by undermining plans by Saudi Arabia, and warring Iran and Iraq to raise their oil revenues.

The new Nigerian government, under Major-General Ibrahim Babangida, has yet to spell out its oil policy. Mr Tam David-West, the oil minister in the ousted government of President Buhari, has not been arrested and said yesterday that he would be willing to serve again if he was asked.

Under Mr David-West, Nigeria's oil policies were criticized by some other Opec members for the proliferation of discounted counter-trade deals, some of which have come unstuck as the market price of oil fell. But it is thought that many of these deals were arranged directly under President Buhari's authority, over Mr David-West's head.

Oil analysts now expect the new Nigerian regime to engineer a sharp increase in oil output, which earns 90 per cent of export revenues, to deal more quickly with the country's economic problems - the ostensible reason for the coup.

They estimate that oil production fell from 1.7 million barrels per day in February to only 1 million bpd in August, but could rise to 1.8 million bpd by the end of the year. Under Opec agreements, Nigeria has a quota of 1.4 million bpd.

Venezuela has announced that it has boosted oil sales from 1.2 million bpd in July to 1.6 million bpd in August after making sharp cuts in the prices of its heavy crudes which are not covered by Opec agreements.

A rise in Nigerian output would make it impossible for Saudi Arabia to raise its output from an estimated 2.0-2.2 million bpd to nearer its 4.35 million bpd quota.

Saudi Arabia has until now voluntarily taken the strain of restraining Opec output to prop up price but is now running up a balance payments deficit estimated at more than \$1 billion per month as a result and has been forced to draw heavily on its estimated \$100 billion of financial reserves.

Iraq could also face problems in implementing its plan to boost output to feed its new 500,000 bpd pipeline to the Saudi Red Sea port of Yanbu.

An Iranian official claimed yesterday that the country's oil exports from the Kharg island terminal had not been stopped by three recent Iraqi air raids.

New calculations from Wood, Mackenzie, the stockbrokers, suggest that the fall in the sterling price of oil from £24 to less than £20 per barrel will require an average 40 per cent increase in the minimum reserves needed to make different kinds of oil field commercial.

Reagan set to veto protectionist bills

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan, in a direct confrontation with Congress, is threatening to veto the scores of protectionist bills pending on Capitol Hill.

He said in his weekly radio address at the weekend that any protectionist legislation that did not meet the test of whether it advanced American prosperity must and would be opposed.

White House officials said afterwards that the remarks should be taken as a veto threat against the wave of protectionist bills expected to start reaching the Senate next month. The President insisted that protectionism was almost always self-destructive, doing more harm than good even to those it was supposed to be helping.

Congress is increasingly angry about the wave of cheap imports that labour leaders say costs thousands of American jobs every month. Mr Reagan last week refused to impose restrictions on cheap shoe imports.

The White House is concerned about the steady and serious decline of Republican support for his trade policies. Faced with strong constituency demands for action, many law makers are prepared for a direct legislative clash with the White

House. Mr Reagan's chief of staff, Mr Donald Regan, said he expects the US economy to improve during the first half of next year, with economic growth of 3 to 4 per cent, but he expressed concern about continued high interest rates.

He said he was puzzled that interest rates did not reflect the drop in the inflation rate which has held to about 4 per cent for about two years.

Buyout puts Hanson bid at risk

By Jeremy Warner

Hanson Trust's \$745 million (£535 million) takeover bid for SCM Corporation, the New York typewriters to chemical conglomerate, received a severe setback over the weekend when SCM announced it had organized a management buyout worth \$868 million (£623 million).

SCM and Merrill Lynch have entered into preliminary agreement that provides for the formation of a company by the SCM management and the investment banks. The company will offer \$70 a share in a leveraged buyout transaction sponsored by Merrill Lynch, easily topping the \$60 a share bid launched by Hanson two weeks ago.

SCM said last week when it formally rejected Hanson's bid that it had instructed Goldman Sachs, its financial adviser, to explore alternative transactions such as a white knight rival bidder or a leveraged buyout.

Mr Paul Elicker, chairman of SCM, said he was delighted to join Merrill Lynch in a transaction that will benefit the SCM shareholders and all the members of the SCM family.

Hanson said that was unable to comment.

IN BRIEF

Distillers dig in

Mr John Connell, chairman of Distillers, has cut short his holiday to be in London today because of mounting speculation that the Johnnie Walker Red Label to Gordon's gin group is about to receive a £1.5 billion takeover bid.

An unscheduled meeting with boardroom colleagues and advisers is being hurriedly arranged amid clear signs that Mr James Gulliver's Argyll Group is about to embark on what would be the biggest takeover battle yet seen in the City.

Mr Gulliver has so far refused to deny the rumours despite the fact that Argyll, a food retailing manufacturing group, is little more than half the size of Distillers in terms of market capitalization.

William Kay, page 19

Norwest Holst float fixed

The £60 million flotation of Norwest Holst, the construction group which lost its listing in 1980 after being taken over by two directors, Mr Raymond Slater and Mr John Lilley, is planned for this month when Lloyds Merchant Bank and the stockbroker Hoare Govett offer the entire share capital.

Mr Slater resigned as chairman in March and severed his links with the group. He and Mr Lilley were criticized by Department of Trade inspectors in 1982 for the way they gained control and for alleged breaches of the Takeover Code.

Interest up

Hong Kong (AP-DJ) - Hong Kong's leading banks raised their lending rate half a point to 7 per cent on Saturday, in the first increase since July 1984, when it was a record 17 per cent.

Ford losses

Fordwerke, West Germany's third largest car maker and a subsidiary of Ford Motor Company of the US which lost DM1298.1 million (£74 million) last year, expects its losses to continue this year and in 1986.

Chinese PR

One of the world's largest public relations agencies, the American Burson Marsteller International, is joining with a subsidiary of China's official Xinhua news agency to set up a public relations agency.

Maxwell Newton's US Notebook is on Page 20



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Please remember that if you fail to pay the final instalment you are liable to lose any entitlement to the shares and may receive no repayment of the first instalment.

Saxon lobby fights on

Saxon Oil's chief executive, Mr John Heaney, and members of Charterhouse Petroleum's senior management, continued their lobbying of institutional investors over the weekend in an attempt to win last-minute support for the proposed merger of the two companies which has another closing date tomorrow.

At last week's closing date acceptance had been received from shareholders representing 79.33 per cent of Charterhouse's capital and 36.45 per cent of Saxon's.

The institutions have been receptive to the arguments for the merger, but since they also have a £120.6 million bid for Saxon from Enterprise Oil to consider, many are reluctant to accept the merger terms immediately.

The Enterprise bid was launched after some Saxon shareholders had already given their acceptance of the merger with Charterhouse.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

(Friday's close and change on FT Ind Ord)	1013.9 (+22.5)
FT All Share	846.26 (+11.22)
FT Govt Securities	83.54 (-0.16)
FT SE 100	1341.1 (+27.6)
Bargains	24.037 (+2214)
Dataseam USM	105.56 (+1.16)
New York	
Dow Jones	1,334.01 (+15.69)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12,713.15 (+21.74)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1858.10 (-13.88)
Amsterdam	220.5 (+3.2)
Sydney AO	945.9 (-0.7)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1472.8 (+57.8)
Bussan	
General	580.69 (+245.82)
Paric CAC	222.4 (+4)
Zurich	
SKA General	411.60 (+8.7)

GOLD

London fixing	am \$335.75 pm \$333.25
close	\$335.25-\$333.75 (238.25-238.75)
New York	
Comex	\$334.45

CURRENCIES

(Friday's close and change on week)	
London:	
£: \$1.3922 (-0.0065)	
£: DM 3.9129 (+0.0576)	
£: SwFr 3.2150 (+0.0576)	
£: FFf 11.9594 (+0.1840)	
£: Yen 332.28 (+1.42)	
£ Index	82.7 (+0.5)
New York:	
£: \$1.3885 (-0.016)	
£: DM 2.8178 (+0.0680)	
£ Index	137.5 (+1.8)
ECU	80.57108
SDR	20.73777

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Associated Steel Distributors, Benford Concrete, Brook Street Bureau, KCA Drilling, IML Industrial Scotland Energy, Macfarlane Group, Save & Prosper Gold Funds.
Finals: F. Cope, New Dairies Oil Trust, Raglan Property Trust, Sime Darby Berhad.
TOMORROW - Interims: James Beattie, Brammer, Exco International, Hyman, Kleinwort Benson Lonsdale, KLP Group, Lambert Howarth, London & Scottish

Marine Oil, Metal Closures, Provident Financial Group, Sharpe and Fisher, Systems Reliability, Waco Group, Wates City of London Properties.
Finals: Coloroll Group, Land Investors, Minerals Oils and Resources Shares Fund Income, Ricardo Consulting Engineer.
WEDNESDAY - Interims: Asbury and Madeley, BICC, Bunzl, Cement Roadstone Holdings, Family Investment Trust, Guardian Royal Exchange, Hillsdown Holdings, K&P O, Heatbrook, Pacer Systems, P & O, Reabrook Holdings, Robinson Brothers, Ropner, Sun Alliance and London Insurance, Wilson (Connolly).
Finals: Associated British Engineering, Cope Allman, Pacific Sales Organisation, Sharpe and Fisher, Stewart Plastics.
THURSDAY - Interims: Cadbury Schweppes, Centraway Industries, William Collins, Cooke Group, Fergabrook Group, Instem, Moorgate Group, Pentos, Wadkin, Wayne Kerr.
Finals: Bracken Mines, Cantors, Kinross Mines.
FRIDAY - Interims: D. Crouch, Executeclothes.
Finals: Framingham Group, Pearlless, Second Alliance Trust.

Bonds highlight state of near paralysis

The financial markets are in a state of near paralysis. The bond markets cannot break out of the 75-to-78 range in the price of the September 1-bond contract.

The commodities futures markets as a whole cannot break out above their 1982 low of 220 as measured by the Commodity Research Bureau's long-standing index.

The stock market has been muddling around 1,300 on the Dow Jones industrial average for weeks, going nowhere.

The CRB index of interest rate futures, which rose from 95 to 97.5 between March and June has now spent two months incapable of falling below 96.75 or of rising above 97.5.

This stagnation in the fundamental guideline of the financial markets - the bond futures - has frozen movement throughout the whole system.

The bond markets are incapable of forming a judgement about the direction and the rate of change of the US economy. While most of the economic evidence coming forward indicates continuing negligible

US NOTEBOOK

economic growth, along the lines of the 12 months to June (average 2 per cent real growth rate), the Administration and the Federal Reserve are pushing very hard the notion that real GNP will grow at 4 to 5 per cent in the second half of this year.

If the bond market truly believed those forecasts, it would fall over in a heap; bond future prices would collapse; Nevertheless, while the bond markets cannot stomach a good collapse of prices, nor can they gather enough enthusiasm about weakness in the economy to bring about a further rally, sufficient to break through the restricted trading range that has characterized bond prices since early June.

There are considerable fears that prevent this degree of determined action:

(1) Money M1 has been growing at an unprecedented rate - 14 per cent a year since early June.

(2) Against this the Federal Reserve has been maintaining

the crucial federal funds rate at the 7 1/2 per cent range, far too high for the bond market's liking and indicative of a restrictive Fed policy that seems to run counter to the M1 surge.

(3) The news about the economy is not sufficiently and unequivocally bad.

(4) More and more bank collapses are reported - thus giving seeming confirmation to many of the "doomsday" forecasts that the bond market loves. However, the Federal Reserve and the Administration continue to find billions to "bail out" these delinquents.

Anxious expectation and feverish deliberation combine to paralyse the markets as they wait for the third quarter flash GNP result, due on September 23. But alas, a recent study by Mr. Stephen Roach, senior economist at Morgan Stanley, has revealed the "flash" figure is almost always seriously inaccurate. Is there no way to lead a quiet and profitable life in the bond market?

Maxwell Newton

German chemical boom continues

Frankfurt (Reuters) - West German chemical companies are enjoying a continued boom, with strong first half results and good full-year earnings and higher dividends expected.

There is a good chance all three big companies will raise their dividend again this year, one analyst said.

The top three companies - Hoechst, Bayer and BASF - are evolving new strategies to meet structural challenges according to the analyst.

Hoechst had group pretax first half profits of DM1.65 billion (\$410 million) 11.5 per cent up; Bayer posted a 16 per cent rise to DM1.73 billion, and BASF first half profits soared 37.6 per cent to DM1.72 billion.

Bayer expected 1985 world group turnover to rise to just under DM50 billion from DM43.03 billion, with second half results expected as good as the first half.

BASF has said the year's earnings could outstrip 1984 net group profit of DM895.4 million.

Hoechst expected second half business to remain satisfactory but gave no profit or turnover estimates. In May, it expected this year's results to match 1984's record group earnings of DM1.35 billion.

Despite the good first half second quarter results have raised questions. Hoechst, second biggest firm after Bayer, is having problems with its US business, highlighting a shift from mass production to specialized fields, analysts said.

BASF, the strongest group in the chemical sector, may be a model for change.

BASF's pretax profits in the quarter rose 60 per cent while Hoechst's fell 2.4 per cent. Hoechst's US mass produced chemicals suffered from the sluggish American economy, while BASF had begun a successful specialization programme there.

"There are now important strategy differences between the big firms," Herr Volker Kalisch, spokesman for the Chemical Industry Association said.

All three companies rationalized and restructured their loss making plastic sectors in the early 1980s, laying the ground for a powerful revival that began in 1983.

The strong dollar sharply raised competition in the United States for Hoechst and its rivals. But Herr Kalisch said the effect of a now falling dollar on chemical companies had been overplayed.

NCB denies holding up inquiry

By Ian Griffiths

The Coal Board has denied that publication of the findings of an independent investigation of its accounting practices has been delayed.

Four leading accountants were appointed by the board last December to examine its accounting techniques after criticisms by five leading accountancy academics.

The academics were critical of some of the board's internal accounting procedures, in particular the financial statement used by the board to monitor pit performance, which they argued did not provide "a sensible basis for pit closure decisions."

The board disputed many of the allegations, made during the height of the miners' strike.

That was more than eight months ago. A report from the investigators had been expected in the summer but the board now says that it is unlikely to be published before the autumn.

Some observers believe that one reason for the length of the investigation is that the allegations about the board's accounting practices had more substance than the board believed.

TEMPUS

Gilts: stop-go signals from Bank on interest rates

Topology is a primitive form of geometry which involves the study of things that do not change. Some claim that the gilt market is a living, breathing topological structure, traders and all.

The tap system is one way into understanding the topological version of the market. Taps can assume a variety of identities. They can be issued to lead the market on, to hold it back or, frequently, to lead it up the garden path. The loose nature of the market structure lends itself to a plurality of potential interpretations.

Hence, when the Bank of England embarks on a definite course of action, it will tend to use more than usual emphasis to ram the message home, knowing well that traders are prone to misunderstand what is going on.

The line at the start of the week was clear. The accommodative approach to the market, and in particular to the gilt, was poised to take a back seat in favour of a tighter approach. Sale and repurchase agreements were out, and expensive lending to the houses was much in vogue. Hence, by extension, rates were not poised to fall. Should traders wish to hold short-dated gilts and sacrifice a point and a half of yield in the hope of a subsequent and indeterminate resumption of easier credit policies, then that was entirely their affair. The Bank's attitude was definitely neo-Augustinian. "Oh, let us have rate cuts, but not yet."

But on Wednesday, the Bank arranged a sale and repurchase agreement with the houses. This, in theory, abjured all the tough talk of the last few trading sessions. Was it then a signal that the Bank had backed away from its previous policies? Did it mean, by the switches built in the market mind, that rates were poised to fall?

Signals from Threadneedle Street suggested that the opposite was true. It is understood that the Bank was prepared just about to concede - if pressed - that an event had taken place. But it managed, by an extraordinary application of the topological principle, to imply that the opposite significance should be attached to its money market manoeuvres.

The conditions of the "repo" were unattractive, and so was its term. The houses were still offered late assistance. More to

the point, the Bank returned to its tough line on the following day, and even upped the ante a fraction by leaving a particle of the shortage in the market. This helped to drive short-term rates up to 14 per cent.

Traders were puzzled as to why the Bank had deviated from its line on Wednesday. Most reached the conclusion that the Bank softened because the clearing banks were simultaneously threatening to put base rates up. The Bank also renewed its system of accommodative arrangements, with the clearing banks last week. It has a difficult path to tread. If the equilibrium of expectations is disturbed, rates are as likely to go shooting ahead, as to fall, it seems.

It is easy to justify, on a structural level, just why the Bank should want to keep rates high. Arguably, it can see a way of using high rates, along with other policy instruments, to trim, if not demolish, the bill mountain. Hitting the houses curbs the marginal rise in bank lending through issue Department purchases, while higher rates may tend to rein back the household sector's demand for credit.

These tactics lie in with the authorities' other manoeuvres to switch the flow of funds within the economy. On July 26 the Government announced an alteration in the terms on which local authorities could borrow from the Public Works Loan Board. The net effect - a saving of perhaps 1/4 per cent - may apparently have been instrumental recently in encouraging local authorities to switch their borrowing away from the banking system, replacing it directly with central government borrowing.

Funds are added to the money markets as the central government borrowing requirement is increased. But the overall PSBR remains unchanged.

Bulls of this manoeuvre exist over its success so far. They point to the £2 billion rundown in total assistance by the authorities to the money markets in banking August.

They also see bearish estimates of £2M growth in banking August of 2 per cent plus as heavily exaggerated. On this line of argument, the need for the Bank to reduce its tight-fisted approach to the market is less pressing. Rates might well fall this week.

An additional strand in the argument relates to the

impending Cabinet reshuffle. Some maintain that the authorities have carefully held back any cuts until all the details of the reshuffle are known. Speculation that the revamped Cabinet will be announced sooner rather than later may in turn accelerate a move towards cheaper money, as a kind of Godspeed for the fresh team. And, in any case, the bulls exclaim, this is party conference time: rates always fall at party conference time.

In another sense, a shift to rate cuts and away from exchange rate targeting would look to be the logical outcome to the bewildering series of policy shifts so far this year. After the sterling crisis, money supply growth was to be well within target. The overhanging which this required then provoked a shift away from broad money targeting in the spring.

Money targeting on M0. This enjoyed little esteem in market eyes, and so the authorities moved to exchange rate targeting, a policy stance which is inherently unstable given the changing imperative of world capital flows. A new policy based on rate cuts and motivated by good news on inflation looks to be the way forward during the autumn.

But the market should be aware that the pace of developments both abroad and in the public may just oblige the Chancellor and his team to temporize on the rate at which money costs can come down. Major spending departments have been established this summer at the easy way in which the Treasury has nodded through claims which were well padded out in advance. The small print of the public sector contribution to monetary growth will be worth studying in detail.

Debt problems in Brazil, coups in Nigeria and the apparent collapse of South Africa, with its loaded potential for damaging the British current account, is causing international monetary officials to talk yet again of terrors running through the world monetary system. Meanwhile, US broad money is shooting ahead and is well outside the target range.

Perhaps the case for curbing excessive growth of policies will be made successfully in world banking parlours.

Perhaps, too, the Bank of England will hang on successfully to its softly, softly approach to rate cuts.

WORLD STUDENT GAMES

McGeorge triumphs in 1,500 metres

Kobe, Japan (Agencies) - Chris McGeorge won Britain's first gold medal in the 1,500 metres at the World Student Games here on Saturday. McGeorge overcame strong international field, setting the better of Adam Dixon, of the United States, in a sprint finish.

The Loughborough University student, aged 23, who had concentrated on the 800 metres until last year, took the pace from the start, running in tandem with Dixon. On the last lap the two began pulling away. The little Briton rounded the final bend shoulder-to-shoulder with Dixon, moving through to victory in the last 10 metres to win by a stride - in 3min 46.22sec.

The Russians who dominated the track and field event, were disappointed when they made a symbolic gesture of friendship by crossing the finishing line together in yesterday's 20-kilometre walk. Victor Mostovoi and Andrey Felov clasped each

other by the waist as they finished the race in 1hr 25min 52sec. Two hours of debate followed as officials tried to decide which of the Russians should be awarded the gold medal. Eventually, without explanation, they pronounced Mostovoi the winner.

There were problems of a more serious nature for officials in the swimming events. The United States was stripped of two gold medals when it was discovered that one of their competitors was under age.

The US team chief, Theo Heap, admitted that Paige Zemma swam illegally in the winning teams in both the 400 metres and 800 metres. Under Games' rules, competitors had to reach the minimum age of 17 by January 1 this year. Zemma was 17 on February 13.

Results, page 22

RUGBY UNION

Drinks ban imposed by RFU

Bottles and cans of beer will be banned from Twickenham this season, but the traditional pre-match rugby international festivities in the main car park will be allowed to continue.

The Rugby Football Union have decided to strictly enforce their no-drinks rule which is aimed at heading off the type of rowdiness imposed on football. Although the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol) Act 1985 does not apply to rugby football matches, it will operate in Scotland. Therefore it will be an offence for supporters from Wales or England to carry alcohol to a Murrayfield match.

Mr Dennis Morgan, administrative secretary at the RFU, said, "Because of the present climate of opinion we will strongly apply the rules concerning bottles and cans at Twickenham. But it will not affect the car parks. We have issued a warning note about this to all member clubs. We are conscious that rugby will be observed this season."

Final defeat

Bloemfontein (AP) - The Welsh Cynwys rugby team lost the final of the South Africa tour on Saturday, going down 40-19 to a strong Orange Free State side after being level at 10-10 at the interval. The British Lions prop Graham Price and Alan Davison both left the pitch with injuries.

More rugby, page 22

BOXING

Ban on 39 boxers after drugs tests

New York (AFP) - Hector Camacho, of Puerto Rico, the World Boxing Council lightweight champion, is one of 39 boxers barred from the ring for 90 days by the New Jersey State Boxing Commission after failing drug tests.

The commission said the boxers had been shown to have traces of drugs in their urine in routine tests taken before and after bouts to check for drugs like marijuana, cocaine and heroin.

Following the New Jersey announcement, the state commissions of New York and Nevada have indicated that they ban the boxers from competing in their arenas for three months. That means that the major American venues of Atlantic City (New Jersey), Madison Square Garden (New York), Las Vegas Sands (Nevada), and the Flamingo Las Vegas (Nevada), are off-limits to the listed boxers.

The report did not reveal what drugs Camacho had been using, according to the test, but stated that the positive test had been given at the time of his bout with Louis Borge in January this year. The ban will not affect Camacho, who does not have a fight scheduled for the next three months.

The only other boxer of note named in the report is cruiserweight Stanley Dunbar, who was to box for the WBC title against Alonzo Batilly on September 2.

More boxing, page 22

SPEEDWAY



Gundersen retained his world title after run-off

The day of the Danes

Erik Gundersen, of Denmark, retained the world championship after a run-off between three riders in the Sunbrite final at Odal, Sweden, on Saturday. Another Dane, Hans Nielsen, of Odal, was runner-up for the second year running and an American, Sam Ermolenko, finished a surprising third.

Gundersen, a Cradley rider, looked in danger of surrendering his title when he could only finish third in his first race, but he recovered to win his other races in fine style to earn a place in the run-off with 13 points. Nielsen set the early pace by winning his first three races, but his form suffered after he had crashed. England's only representative in the final, Kevin Tatum, aged 21, of Coventry, won his first race, but then faded.

RESULTS: 1. E. Gundersen (Den), 13pts; 2. H. Nielsen (Den), 11pts; 3. S. Ermolenko (USA), 10pts; 4. K. Tatum (Eng), 8pts; 5. M. Morris (USA), 7pts; 6. J. Cook (USA), 6pts; 7. K. Nielsen (Den), 5pts; 8. A. Anderson (Swe), 4pts; 9. L. King (USA), 3pts; 10. A. Adams (Den), 2pts; 11. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 12. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 13. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 14. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 15. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 16. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 17. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 18. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 19. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 20. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 21. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 22. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 23. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 24. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 25. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 26. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 27. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 28. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 29. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 30. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 31. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 32. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 33. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 34. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 35. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 36. A. Adams (Den), 1pt; 37. A. Castagna (ITA), 1pt; 38. 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In Dublin on Sunday, Commanche Run, Leading Counsel, Scottish Reel and Helen Street are but four top-class performers that will be doing battle for Europe's richest race, the £400,000 Phoenix Champion Stakes.

Slip Anchor continues to place. Henry Cecil, Lord Howard de Walden's runaway Derby winner covered nine furlongs with Life Peer and Royal Coach on the round gallop on the Limerick. And Oh So Sharp also acquitted herself creditably in a similar spin with her usual workmate, Little Deep Water.

The five-times champion trainer's decision to run Oh So Sharp in the St. Leger instead of Limerick is one of exceptional boldness. Stamina is clearly the forte of Sheikh Mohammed's 1,000 Guineas and Oaks winner. She was doing all her best in the last quarter mile at Epsom and was only just beaten by Petroski on unsuitable going in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot.

However, that extra 367 yards at Doncaster has proved undoing of equally outstanding champions in the past. Alleged, the subsequent dual Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner was outstayed by Dunfermline on Town Moor in 1978. And the ill-fated Sherraz, previously a 10-lengths winner of the Derby could finish only for behind Cut Above in soft going in 1981.

However, the risk is clearly one worth taking, so markedly

Oh So Sharp in unknown territory



Imperial Bid (right) overhauling Immortal Dancer in Sandown's Ratchiff Tail Lift Handicap

By Michael Seely

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Well-bred Elaafuur to confirm potential

By Michael Phillips

After making a triumphant racecourse debut at Chesham last Tuesday, Elaafuur makes a quick return to the limelight at Windsor today in the Potemkin Stakes. As his race at Chesham was restricted to two-year-olds who had never run, the race is difficult to evaluate. However, he won by four lengths, running away from the favourite Our Tilly, who, on the strength of good homecoming, was backed as the favourite at Newmarket. He was backed as the favourite at Newmarket. He was backed as the favourite at Newmarket.

In the circumstances it will not be surprising if Elaafuur wins again, at the expense of Modena Reef and the well-bred newcomer Hanglands. Behind the Stakes, the pick of the half-stalder to Virunga. Elaafuur himself certainly sports a pedigree that is currently in the news. Apart from being a crack racehorse in his heyday, Seattle Slew is now one of the most sought-after sires in the United States. Virunga is the dam of those two good French milers, Vacance and Vin De France.

While the distance of the Winter Hill Stakes looks a bit short for Khoodar, it still expects this young half-brother to Adridge to prove hard to beat. After all in the spring he did manage to finish third over a mile at Newmarket in the Wood

England's highlights only will be on TV

Only the recorded highlights of England's World Cup game with Romania at Wembley on Wednesday will be televised on BBC. England's last four qualifying games have all been shown live but television has shown it is not sufficient interest this time to justify it. Neither do the Football Association consider it a viable option because thousands of tickets remain unsold.

The FA, mindful of the dispute between television and the Football League which has kept the opening of the season off the screen, said: "Live coverage renewed our discussions. We only consider that when at least 80 per cent of tickets have been sold."

Terry Butcher poses the only problem for Bobby Robson as the England manager prepares to name a virtually unchanged squad. The Ipswich centre half, who had a carilage operation only three weeks ago, has yet to play his first game. He plans to test his right knee in a reserve game on Wednesday with a first team match probably on Saturday, four days before the international.

Northern Ireland, who visit Turkey on the same day in the same Group 3, also name their squad today, as do both Wales and Scotland, who meet in the crucial game at Cardiff tomorrow week, in Group 7.

Kenny Dalglish will be named in Scotland's squad despite the injury which has kept him out of the Liverpool team recently. The Scotland manager, Jock Stein, believes that Dalglish will have recovered in time. Suspension automatically rules Souness out but he, also, names their squad today, as do both Wales and Scotland, who meet in the crucial game at Cardiff tomorrow week, in Group 7.

WINDSOR

Going: good to firm

Draw advantage: 5-8, high numbers best

2.30 ADDITIONAL APPRENTICE HANDICAP (3-y-o: £1,025: 5) (21 runners)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
2	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
3	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
4	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
5	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
6	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
7	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
8	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
9	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
10	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
11	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
12	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
13	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
14	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
15	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
16	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
17	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
18	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
19	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
20	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
21	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40

4.0 WINTER HILL STAKES (23,858: 1m 22yds) (9)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
2	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
3	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
4	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
5	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
6	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
7	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
8	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40
9	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40	4-02-40

Eddery's bunch of five

The racing career of Law Society, second to Slip Anchor in the Epsom Derby and winner of the Irish Sweepstakes, has almost certainly come to an end. For the Irish Correspondent writes: "The colt pulled up lame at Ballydoon on Saturday morning in what was intended to be the final gallop prior to contesting the £400,000 Phoenix Champion Stakes next Sunday."

Vincent O'Brien, the trainer, held out little hope that he would be able to race again but confirmed that he was not at all surprised. He said: "The colt has been a very good horse, but obviously he is a tough individual and easily beaten. He is a horse to be treasured in the hands of Eddery."

Uttler, previously successful in the Galtee Stakes at York, will now return to the Curragh for the Jefferson Smurfit Memorial Irish St. Leger.

WEEKEND RESULTS AND TABLES

First division										Scottish premier division																				
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armadillo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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HORIZONS

A guide to
career choice

Think twice about first offers

Edward Fennell looks
at how financial
cuts are affecting
higher education

If you are now hoping for higher education then nerves of steel are needed because closures and cuts are on the agenda again. Uncertainty hangs over the future of teacher training at a number of institutions and it is now widely rumoured in well-informed educational circles that Sir Keith Joseph will soon be drawing up a shortlist of universities that are ripe for a systematic run-down.

The University Grants Committee, which allocates finance to the universities, has warned that "the crisis point at which the closure of universities becomes inevitable" is now close. Current policy is for an annual 2 per cent cut in financial grant and although "centres of excellence" are being identified and protected, other institutions will have to brace themselves for, at best, a lashing and, at worst, extinction.

None of this brings much comfort to those who, at this stage in the year, are trying to squeeze through the clearing system into some of those last remaining university places. You might wonder whether it's all worth it. If your A level results are mediocre then the likelihood is that only a third rate university will accept you. And third rate universities and even weak departments within average universities are clearly sinking ships.

Institutions are being
tested severely

According to government policy, priority is being given to developing the scientific and technological base, both within the universities and the polytechnics. So it is the soft humanities and social sciences, particularly where the reputations are modest, that will be at the front of the firing line. Roger Blows of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics said: "Because of the need for the cuts and the designation of protected areas, the squeeze is bound to come on those subjects which are unprotected."

The result is that considerable thought needs to be given to whether it is worth accepting a place "just anywhere" for the sake of three years' higher education. You could be going to an institution where morale is low, facilities in decline, student-staff ratios going up, and a reputation that is going down.

Now that times are tough, institutions are being tested severely as to their capacity to demonstrate work of high quality.

But some institutions are doing rather well out of this. At Southampton University, for example, more than 25 per cent of income is now

derived from "contract" research work on behalf of companies and agencies. This is money strongly competed for and won against stiff competition.

A major European contract for transporter research awarded earlier this summer, for example, was a mark of Southampton's international reputation. And it is money from this kind of project that enables the university to acquire the most up-to-date equipment. Without it there would be a distinct gap in its facilities.

And success breeds success. Having proved its worth, Southampton is now getting an extra £3.5 million for a new electronics building that will allow student numbers to expand.

But not many institutions can claim this kind of record. The focus of interest now lies in the field of research particularly. The University Grants Committee is developing and promoting new, more selective methods of allocating money to the universities.

The likelihood is that those which are good at research, and are successful at attracting research projects from industry, will find themselves encouraged and rewarded by the committee. Those who are weak in research will enter a downward spiral as less money is pumped in, resulting in their reputation sinking even lower.

If you are scrambling to get into a college, this might seem just remote high-level educational policy that won't necessarily impinge on you. Unfortunately, that is not true. There is a widespread misapprehension, shared even by some admissions tutors, that it really doesn't matter which institution you attend as long as you get a degree. The reality, however, is that where you study - and particularly its reputation among employers - can be a decisive influence on your future.

A recent survey of employers' attitudes (focussing on the value of sandwich courses) revealed that where you study and what you study is of a key significance in employers' eyes.

The conclusion is that you need to be very wary of the "panic measures" which some college applicants adopt at this time of the year. Three quarters of the last-minute applicants to

universities get their places fixed through telephone calls to admissions tutors.

At this time of year, many careers advisers spend days just telephoning institutions trying to find the last few remaining unfilled places. That may be a neat way of getting an offer but it is not the most sensible method of allocating three years of your life. Drop-out rates among first-year students tend to be highest among those who have made their application just before the start of the academic year. And to go to a course or college simply because it is available could easily be a recipe for disaster.

As the cuts and suggestions of closure have indicated, not all universities and polytechnics are the same. If you end up, in the clearing lottery, in a college that is being progressively starved of funds, where library hours are shortening, and where links with employers are poor, you could be seriously nobbling your future career prospects.

The emphasis is on
intellectual maturity

The answer, therefore, is to try to gain the maximum possible advantage of your A level results, however modest they may be. The best way to do that could involve postponing your start in higher education until the 1986-87 academic year.

By taking a year off you will be in a slightly better position to see how the various institutions are faring in the University Grants Committee and polytechnic finance battles.

And the introduction of a tougher, more disciplined entrance system for the polytechnics - which comes into operation this autumn - means that admission tutors at good polytechnics could well be interested in A level qualified applicants, even though their grades might not be strong.

But the trend in general is moving in favour of those who are older with broader experience of life than just school. The Government's Green Paper on higher education, published in May, says that more emphasis should be put on intellectual competence, motivation and maturity and less on formal qualifications.

So the more time you have to go round selecting the courses the institutions you like - and which appear to have secure long-term futures - the more successful and productive your college career is likely to be.

EDUCATIONAL COURSES REVIEW

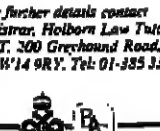
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**Edited by Peter Davalle
and Bob Williams**

CHOICE

Early Music Festival: Music Antiqua, Cologne, perform Scarlatti's Concerto No 6 in D; Handel's Four arias from Flavius, King of the Lombards; Bech's Brandenburg Concerto No 5.1
News: Until 12.00
Medium wave: Cricket: Fourth day of the Sixth Test. From 10.55am to 6.30.

Radio 2

on the hour. Headlines 5.30am

7.30 and 8.30.
Inc Colin Barry.† 8.00 Ray Moore.†
Ken Bruce.† Incl 8.45 Pause for
ght. 10.30 Jimmy Young.† 1.05pm
Is Desk: Desmond
ington.† 2.02 Sports Desk. 2.05
A Hunniford incl 3.02 Sports Desk.
David Hamilton.† Incl 5.06, 6.02
Sports Desk. 6.05 Paul Henney? Incl
Sports and 7.30 Cricket. 8.00 Alan
9.00 Humphrey
ton.† 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 So
Blood. Thriller serial (3). 10.30
Sound (soundtrack requests,
scenes from the
ies). 11.00 Round Midnight. Inc
11.32 Around Sports Desk. 1.00am

Peter Davalle

[illegible]

Sports International, 9.00 News 9.15
 at the Seventeen 9.30 Counterpoint,
 News 10.09 World Today 10.25 Bob
 10.30 Financial News, 10.40
 Phone 10.45 Sports Roundup, 11.00
 at the Seventeen 11.15, 11.30 News in His
 Field, 11.30 Bob Clark, 12.00 News
 About Britain, 12.15 Radio
 News, 12.30 Sarah and Company 1.00
 1.01 Outlook 1.30 Short Story 1.45
 at the Seventeen 1.50, 2.00 News
 of the British Press 2.15 Network UK,
 Sports International, 3.00 News 3.09
 About Britain 3.16 World Today, 4.45
 News, 4.55 Reflections 5.00 News
 Twenty-Five 5.15, 5.45 World Today
 (All times in GMT)

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
 verso. ★ Black and white. (†) Repeat

1247m: VHF -90-92.5: Radio 4:
58kHz/206m: VHF 94.9: World

y As London except: 8.25am
 Sesame Street. 10.25 The Big
 5.55 Fireball XLS. 11.20 Wattoo
 co. 1.20pm TSW News Headlines.
 Film: The Picture of Donat Gray.
 5.55 Honeybun's Magic Birthdays.
 7.00pm Today Show News. 8.30
 8.55pm News. 9.30pm News. 10.35
 11.00pm News. 11.30pm News.

THE TEES As London except:
3.25pm North East
6.00 North East News, 6.02
et. 6.30 Northern Life 10.30 North

CHANNEL As London except:
9.25am Five Weeks in a
Canal. 10.25 The Big Ice. 10.55
The Big Kill. 11.00 Waited Westco. 1.20
Canal News. 1.30 Film: The Picture of
Dorian Gray. 5.12 Puttin' on Politics. 5.00
Special Report. 5.30 Judi goes on
TV. 10.30 Channel News. 10.34
Canal News. 11.00 Wild Cats. 11.55 Les
Chapelliers. Followed by
down

COMMON WAREHOUSE 836 3028	GARRICK & CO 01-836 6601-579	LYRIC THEATRE Shaftesbury Ave	OLD VIC 028 7616 CC 261 11
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DULLEVILLE 01-836 9987 / 836 5646
 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM SAT 0.0 8.30
 UNDER OF ALL IS MAJOR AWARDS
 BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR
 JEFF ADAMS CLIVE BURGESS
 ALAN WATKINS GUY GUN
 MICHAEL FRAYNE'S NEW PLAY
 BENEFACTORS
 Directed by MICHAEL BLAKEMORE
 LAST WEEK - MUST CLOSE AT
 DULLEVILLE 01-836 9987 / 836 5646
 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM SAT 0.0 8.30
 FIFTEEN PREVIEWERS from Sept 18
 RICHARD 4 PETER
 STOUT
 WHO PLAYS WINS
 A musical entertainment written
 and composed by Peter Skerfving
 and Johnnie Johnson
 TRINITY RAJACE 01-836 1117

MICHAEL CRAWFORD IN
 THE BARNUM
 OFFICE OPEN MON-SAT.
 9-3PM. MONS. & TUESDAYS FOR
 C. BRICE ONLY 10AM-7PM.
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 A VERY... Obs.
 SUE TOWNSEND
 THE SILENT DIST. OF
 ADRIAN MOLE
 AGED 15%
 MUSIC & LYRICS BY
 N. HONARD & A. J. HARELEY
 ELEGANTLY SPARKLING HUMORS" Gdn.
 IMPULSIVELY ENTERTAINING"
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 MUSIC VHS 028 6563. T1 Sat SIMON
 MIDNIGHT NEW play by Bernard

CINEMAS

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ADAMBY 3. 4.57. 6811. THE
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BECAN CINEMA 1-628 5795.
reduced rates. Part 1 Ticket:
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also on page 28

Do-it-yourself 235 miles up

A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing a close-up of a textured surface, possibly a rock or concrete. The foreground is dominated by a dark, shadowed area, while the background is a bright, speckled area. The overall effect is one of stark contrast and texture.

Parkinson is kept out in Thatcher's reshuffle

Gorbachov in bitter attack on America

Bendwin	C 21 70	Jiddah	5 54 55	Cairo	1 17 03	Tripoli	1 17 03
Bransford	1 17 03	Joazeiro		Paris	18 18 06	Valencia	
Bredford	C 26 73	Katani	1 29 44	Peking	1 28 02	Vancouver	
Buckley	C 21 70	La Palma	2 26 26	Porto	1 17 03	Yokohama	
Chapin		Lanzarote	2 26 27	Prague	C 17 06	Zagreb	
Chapin	15 58	Lucerne	1 20 77	Reykjavik	5 23 45	Warsaw	
Chapin	C 25 77	Luxembourg	1 20 77	Rhodes	7 29 52	Washington	1 17 03
Chapin	C 11 62	Madrid	3 21 58	Two day Jan	1 21 70	Yokohama	
Chapin						Zagreb	C 18 58

* Services Saturday & Sunday are listed available